THE
Most delectable History
of REYNARD the *Fox.*

Newly corrected and purged from all grosseneſſe, in Phraſe and matter.

As alſo augmented and inlarged With ſundry excellent Morals and Expoſitions upon every ſeverall Chapter.



LONDON,
Printed by *Richard Oulton*, for *Iohn Wright* the younger and
to be ſold at his ſhop in the Old-Baily 1640.

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The Epistle to the Reader.

THOV hast here (courteous and friendly Reader) the pleasant and delightfull History of *Reynard* the Fox, which in an humble and low style (couched to the natures of Beasts it treateth on) beareth in it much excellent Morality and hidden wisdom, worthy both thy regard in reading, and thine application in the course and commencement of thy life and actions; for the ayme at which it bendeth is the overthrow of vice, and the advancement of the good and vertuous.

Now forasmuch as hitherto it hath flowne into the world (like *Sibilla's* loose papers) covered with much ob-

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ſcurity and darkneſſe, I have for thy more eaſe and contentment, to every ſeverall Chapter annexed the Morals and expoſitions of ſuch darke places, as may hold thy Iudgement in ſeeking to wind out of a labyrinth ſo darke and curious; A labour which I doubt not but will prove both pleaſant and wholſom, ſince as a friendly guide it will keep thy meditations from wandring aſtray; and as a pleaſant companion hold thee with ſuch delightfull diſcourſe, that thy Iourney therein will neither bee long nor irkeſome: at which end if it arrive with a faire ſafety as it is faithfully and truely intended, I have the ſum of my wiſhes, & thy ſelfe the proſperity, both of this and other mens endeavours.

Farewell.

THE

THE PLEASANT HISTORY OF *Reynard* the Fox.

CHAP. I.

How the *Lyon* proclaimed a solemne Feast at his Court, and how *Isegrim* the Wolfe and his Wife, and *Curtise* the Hound, made their first complaints of *Reynard* the Fox.

AND WHEN the Feast of Pentecost (which is commonly called Whitsuntide) when the woods are in their lusty-hood and gallantry, and every Tree cloathed in the greene and white livory of glorious leaves and sweet smelling blossomes, and the earth covered in her faireſt mantle of Flowers, which the Birds with much joy entertaine with the delight of their harmonious songs.

Even at this time and entrance of the lusty Spring, the Lyon the Royall King of Beasts, to celebrate this holy Feast-time with all triumphant ceremony, intends to keepe open Court at his great palace of Sandon, and to that end (by solemne Proclamations) makes knowne over all his kingdome to all Beasts whatsoever, that upon paine to be held contemptuous, every one should resort to that great celebration; so that within few dayes after (at the time prefixed) all Beasts both great and small

small came in infinite multitudes to the Court, onely Reynard the Fox excepted, who knew himselfe guilty in so many trespasses against many Beasts, that his comming thither must needs have put his life in great hazard and danger.



Now when the King had assembled all his Court together, there were few Beasts found but made their severall Complaint against the Fox, but especially Isegrim the Wolfe, who being the first and principallest complainant, came with all his Linage and kindred, and standing before the King, said in this manner.

My dread and dearest soveraigne Lord the King, I humbly beseech you, that from the height and strength of your great power, and the multitude of your mercies, you will be pleased to take pitty on the great trespasses, and unsufferable injuries which that unworthy creature Reynard the Fox hath done to me, my wife, and our whole family: of which to give your highnes some taste, first know (if it please your Majesty) that this

Reynard



Reynard came into my house by violence, and against the will of my wife, where finding my children laid in their quiet couch, hee there be-pist them in so rancke a manner, that with the sharpnes of his urine they fell instantly blinde: for this offence a day was set and appointed, wherein Reynard should come to excuse himselfe, and to take a solemne oath that he was guiltlesse of that high injurie: but as soone as the Booke was tendered before him, (he that well knew his owne guiltinesse) refused to sweare, and ran instantly into his hole, both in contempt of your Majestie and your lawes. This (my dread Lord) many of the noblest Beasts know which now are resident in your Court: Nor hath this alone bounded his malice, but in many other things he hath trespast against mee, which to relate, neither the time nor your highnesse patience would give sufferance thereunto: suffice it, mine injuries are so great that none can exceed them, and the shame and villany he hath done to my wife is such, that I can neither bide nor suffer it unrevenged, but I must expect from him amends, and from your Majesty mercy.

The Morall.

Howsoever a vicious man perswades himselfe to escape punishment, by absenting himselfe from the presence of the Magistrate, yet he deceives himselfe, & by his contempt, animates his enemies to be more bold in their complaints against him, as appeares here

When

by the Wolfe, who (although worse then the Fox) yet are tyed with his absence and the seasonablenes of the time for free liberty of speech take, opportunity to say the worst he can against him and by his example makes others of tearefull nature to doe the like. And therefore let no wiseman shrinke from his just triall, but either defend his owne innocence or else submit to mercy, for dead men and absent, find slack Advocates.

When the Wolfe had spoken these words, there stood by him a little Hound whose name was Curtise, who stepping forth, made likewise a grievous complaint (unto the King) against the Fox, saying, that in the extreame cold season of the Winter, when the frost was most violent, he being halfe starved and detained from all manner of prey, had no more meat left him to sustaine his life then one poore Pudding: which Pudding (he said) Reynard had most unjustly taken away from him.



But

But the Hound could hardly let these words fly from his lips, when with a fiery and angry countenance, in sprang Tibert the Cat amongst them, and falling downe before the King, said; My Lord the King, I must confesse the Fox is here grievously complained upon, yet were other Beasts actions searcht, each would have enough to doe for his owne cleating. Touching the complaint of Curtise the Hound, it was an offence committed many yéeres ago, and though I my selfe complaine of no injury yet was the Pudding mine and not his: for I wanne it by night out of a Mill when the Miller lad a-sléepe, so that if Curtise could challenge any share thereof, it must bée from mine interest.

When Panther heard these words of the Cat, hée stood forth and said, Doe you imagine, Tibert, that it were a just or a good course that Reynard should not bée complained upon: why the whole world knowes he is a murtherer, a ravisher and a théefe, and that indéede hé loveth not truely any creature, no not his Majesty him selfe, but would suffer his highnes to lose both Honour and Renown, so that he might thereby attaine to himselfe but so much as the legge of a fatte Hen: I shall tell you what I saw him doe yesterday to Kyward the Hare, that now standeth in the Kings protection, hé promised unto Kyward, that hée would teach him his Credo, and make him a good Chaplaine, hé made him com sit betwéene his legges and sing and cry aloud Credo, Credo: my way lay thereby and I heard the song: then comming nérer, I found that Mr. Reynard had left his first note and song, and began to play his old deceit: for he had caught Kyward by the throate, and had I not at that time come, he had taken his life also, as you may sée by the fresh wound on Kyward at this present. O my Lord the King if you suffer this unpunished, and let him goe quit that hath thus broken your peace, and prophan'd your dignity, and doing no right according to the judgment of your lawes, your Princely children many yéeres hereafter shall beare the slander of his evill. Certainly Panther (said Isegrim) you say true, and it is fit they receive the benefit of Justice that desire to live in peace.

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CHAP. 2.

How *Grimbard* the Brock ſpake for *Reynard* before the King.

THen ſpake Grimbard the Brocke (that was Reynards ſiſters ſonne) being much moved with anger: Iſegrim



you

you are malicious, and it is a common Proverb: Malice never spake well: what can you say against my kinsman Reynard? I would you durst adventure, that which of you had most injured one another, might dye the death, and be hangd as a felon: I tell you, were he here in the Court, and asmuch in the Kings favour as you are, it would be much too little satisfaction for you to aske him mercy: you have many times bitten and torne my kinsman with your venemous teeth, and oftner much then I can reckon, yet some I will call up to my remembrance.

The Morall.

Vice is never without his advocate, and be a man never so lewde, yet he shall still finde one or other to plead for him, especially where there is either greatnes or wealth in the offender, or any alliance of blood to those in favour, as appeares here by the Brock, which pleads for the Fox, first because he was of his kin, and next he was rich & able to pleasure him; lastly, here is to be observed the insinuation of the Advocate, excusing the Foxes faults with a new forme o penitence, cloaking the i's he had don with z a'e & hypocrisie, then

Have you forgot how you cheated him with the Plaise which he threw down from the Cart, when you followed a-lof for feare? yet you devoured the good Plaise alone, and gave him no more but the great bones which you could not eate your selfe: the like you did with the fat flitch of Bacon, whose taste was so good, that your selfe alone did eat it up, and when my uncle asked his part, you answered him with scorne, Faire young man, thou shalt have thy share: but he got not any thing, albeit he wanne the Bacon with great feare and hazard; for the owner came, and caught my kinsman in a sacke, from whence he hardly escaped with life: many of these injuries hath Isegrim done to Reynard, which I beseech your Lord-ships judge if they be sufferable: againe he complaineth that my kinsman hath wrong'd him in his wife: 'tis true, and I confesse Reynard hath laine with her, yet it was seven yeares before Isegrim did wed her, and if my uncle out of courtesie did her a pleasure, what was that to him? she was soon healed of the sore, nor ought he to complain of any thing not belonging to him; wisedome would have concealed it: for what credit gets he by the slaunder of his wife, especially when she is unagrieved?

Now comes Kyward the Hare with his complaint, which to me seems but a trifle, for if he will learne to reade, and read not his lesson aright, who will blame the schoole-master Reynard, if he give him due correction? for if scholers be not beaten and chastised, they will never learne.

Lastly complaineth Curtise that he with great pain had

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the which nothing sooner brings a good man to beliefe and forgivenes,

gotten a Pudding in the winter, being a season in which victuals are hard to find: mée thinkes silence would have become him better: for hée had stolne it, and male quæsisti, & male perdidisti, 'tis fit it be evill lost was evill wonne: who can blame Reynard to take stolne goods from a théefe? It is reason that hée which understands the Law and can discerne right, being of great and high birth as my kinsman is, doe right unto the law. May had he hang'd up Curtise when he took him with the manner, he had offended none but the King in doing Justice without leave; wherefore for respect to his Maiestie hée did it not, though hée reapt little thankes for his labour: alas how doe these complaints hurt him? mine uncle is a Gentleman and a trueman, nor can hée indure falshod, hée doth nothing without the counsaile of his Priest: and I affirme, since my Lord the King proclaimed his peace, hée never thought to hurt any man: for he eateth but once a day, hée liveth as a Recluse, hée chastiseth his body, and weareth a shirt of haire-cloth: it is above a yéers since he eate any Flesh (as I have béen truely informed by them which came but yesterday from him) hée hath forsaken his castle Malepardus, and abandon'd all royalty, a poore Hermitage retaines him, hunting hée hath forsworne, and his wealth he hath scattered, living onely by Almes and good mens charities; doing infinite penance for his sinnes, so that hée is become pale and leane with praying, and fasting, for hée would faine bée with God.

Thus whilest Grimbard his nephew stood preaching, they perceived comming downe the hill unto them, stout Chauntecleere the Cocke, who brought upon a Béere a dead Henne, of whom Reynard had bitten off the head, and was brought to the King to have knowledge thereof.

CHAP. 3.

How *Chauntecleere* the Cocke complained of *Reynard* the Foxe.

CHAVNTECLEERE marched formost, smote piteously his hands and feathers, whil'st on either side the Béere went

two



two ſorrowfull Hens, the one was Tantart, the other the good Hen Cragant, being two of the faireſt Hens betweene Holland and Arden; theſe Hens bore each of them a ſtraight bright burning Taper, and theſe Hennes were ſiſters to Coppell (which lay dead on the Bëere) and in the marching they cried piteouſly, alack and well-a-day for the death of Coppell our

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deare sister. Two young Hens bare the Beare, which cackled so heavily, and wept so loud for the death of Coppell their mother, that the hils gave an eccho to their clamour: thus being come before the King Chantecleere kneeling down, spake in this manner:

Most mercifull and my great Lord the King; vouchsafe I beseech you to heare our complaint, and redresse those injuries, which Reynard hath unjustly done to me, and my children that here stand weeping; for so it is (most mighty Sir) that in the beginning of Aprill, when the weather was faire, I being then in the height of my pride and glory, because of the great stock and linage I came of, as also in that I had eight valiant sonnes, and seven faire daughters, which my wife had hatched, all which were strong and fat, and walked in a yard well walled and fenced round about, wherein they had in severall sheds for their gard fire stout mastiffe dogges, which had torne the skinnes of many wilde Beasts, so that my children feared not any evill which might happen unto them: But Reynard that false and dissembling traytor, envying their happie fortune because of their safety, many times assailed the walles, and gave such dangerous assaults, that the Dogges divers times were let forth unto him, and hunted him away; yea once they light upon him, and bit him, and made him pay the price for his theft, and his torne skinne witnessed, yet nevertheless he escaped, the more was the pitty; yet we were quit of his trouble a great while after: at last he came in the likenesse of an Hermite, and brought me a letter to reade, sealed with your Majesties Seale, in which I found written, that your Highnesse had made peace throughout all your Realme, and that no manner of Beast or Fowle should doe injury one to another, affirming unto me, that for his owne part he was become a Monke or Cloystered Recluse, vowing to performe a dayly penance for his sinnes; shewing unto me his beads, his books, and the haire shirt next to his skinne, saying in humble wise unto me, Sir Chauntecleere, never hence-forth be afraid of me, for I have vowed never more to eate flesh.

The Morall.

When wicked men cannot compasse their wickednes by strong hand, or violence against their enemies; then they study deceits and shifts to entangle them: of all which none is so powerfull as the shew of Religion; for that working upon the easie beliefe of the simple, makes them many times shippe themselves into those rough Seas whence there is no help but shipwrack, as the foolish Cock did to beleeve the subtil Fox. Also in this a man may see, that though an evill man may be now and then excused of some faults, yet still his sinnes will so dog him at

I am



the heeles, that in the end he ſhall be diſcovered & lie open to Law & puniſhment, as now it happened to the Fox, notwithſtanding the Brocks excuſe and maintenance.

I am now wax old, and would onely remember my ſoule, therefore I take my leave, for I have yet my noon and my evenſong to ſay: which ſpake, he departed, ſaying his Credo as he went, and layed him down under a Hathorne: at this I was exceeding glad, that I took no heed, but went and clocked my children together, and walked without the wall, which

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which I shall euer rue, for false Reynard lying vnder a bush, came creeping betwixt us and the gate, and suddainely surprised one of my children, which he trust up in his male and boze away to my great sorrow, for haveing tasted the swætnes of our flesh, neither Hunter, nor Hound can protect or kæpe him from us: night and day hæ waits upon us with that grædines that of fiftæne of my children he hath left me but foure unslaughtered, and yesterday Coppel my daughter (which hære lyeth dead on this Bære) was (after her murther) by a kennell of Hounds rescued from him: This is my complaint, and this I leave to your highnes mercy to take pitty of mæ, and the losse of my faire children.

CHAP. 4.

The Kings answer to the *Cocks* Complaint, and how they sung the *Dirge*.

The Morall.

Here those that excuse bad actions, may see, how such offices returne to disgrace, because evill mens vices being disclosed, the excuses are their shames that make them; as it hapned now to the Brock Also in the Lyon may be seene the effects of a good disposition, which is expresst in the

Then spake the King, sir Grimbard, heare you this of your uncle the Recluse? hæ hath fasted and prayed well: well, beleæve it, if I live a yære, hæ shall dearely abide it: as for you Chauntecleere, your complaint is heard and shall be cured: to your daughter that is dead, wæ will give her the right of buriall, and with solemne Dirges bring her to the earth with worship; which finished, wæ will consult with our Lords, how to doe you right and Justice against the murtherer. Then began the Placebo Domine with all the verses belonging to it, which are too many to recite: and as soone as the Dirge was done, the body was enterr'd, and upon it a faire Marble stone laid, being polished as bright as glasse; in which was ingraven in great letters, this inscription following, Coppell Chantecleeres daughter whom *Reynard* the Fox hath slaine, lyeth here buryed, mourne thou that readest it, for her death was vnjust and lamentable. After this the King sent for his Lords and wisest Counsailers to consult how this foule murther of Reynards might bæ punished. In the end it was concluded that Reynard should bæ sent for, and without all excuse to appeare before the King to answer those trespasses

should



honours and rights of Burial done to the Henne, which is a part of satisfaction for the griefe her kin indured; In the Bears willingnes to fetch the Fox, is expreſt how apt a malicious nature is to be imployd in any thing that may offend his adverſary, and how commonly ſuch imployments miſcarry.

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ſhould be obiected againſt him, and that this meſſage ſhould be delivered by Bruine the Beare: to all this the King gave conſent, & calling him before him, ſaid, Sir Bruine, it is our pleaſure that you deliver this meſſage, yet in the delivery thereof have great regard to your ſelfe, for Reynard is full of policy, and knoweth how to diſſemb'e, flatter and betray, he hath a world of ſnares to intangle you withall, and without great exerciſe of judgement, will make a ſcorn and mock of the beſt wiſdome

 bea-

breathing. My Lord (answered sir Bruine) let me alone with Reynard. I am not such a truant in discretion, to becom a mock to his knavery: and thus full of follity the Beare departed: if his return be as jovial, there is no feare in his well speeding.

CHAP. 5.

How *Bruine* the Beare sped with *Reynard* the Fox.



THE next morning away went Bruine the Beare in quest of the Fox, armed against all plots of deceit whatsoever. and as hee came through a darke Forrest, in which Reynard had a by-path, which he used when he was hunted, hee saw a high mountaine, over which hee must passe to goe to Malepardus: for though Reynard have many houses, yet Malepardus is his chiefest and most ancient Castle, and in it he lay both for defence and ease: Now at last when Bruine was come to Malepardus, hee found the gates close shut, at which after hee had knocked (sitting on his tayle) hee called aloude, Sir Reynard are you at home? I am Bruine your kinsman, whom the King hath sent to summon you to the Court, to answer many foule accusations exhibited against you, and hath taken a great vow, that if you faile to appeare to this summon, that your life shall answer your contempt, and your goods and honours shall lye confiscate at his Highnes mercy: Therefore faire kinsman, bee advised by your friend, and goe with mee to the Court to shunne the danger that else will fall upon you. Reynard lying close by the gate (as his custome was for the warme Sunne sake) hearing those words, departed into one of his holes, for Malepardus is full of many intricate and curious Romes, (which labyrinth-wise hee could passe thorow, when either his danger or the benefit of any prey required the same) where meditating a while with himselfe how he might counterplot and bring the Beare to disgrace (whom hee knew loved him not) and himselfe to honour, at last hee came forth, and said, Deare uncle Bruine, you are exceeding welcome, pardon my slownesse in comming; for at your first speech I was saying my Even-song: and devotion must not be neglected: beleeve mee, hee hath done you no good service, nor doe I thanke him which hath sent you this weary and long journey, in which your much sweat and toyle, farre exceeds the worth of the labour: certainely had you not come, I had to morrow beene at the Court of mine owne accord, yet at this time my sorrow is much lessened, inasmuch as your comfaile at this present may returne mee double benefit: Alas cousin, could his Majesty find no meanes a



messenger then your noble selfe to imploy in these triviall affaires? truely it appeares strange to me: especially since next his royall selfe, you are of greatest renown both in Blood and riches: for my part I would we were both at Court, for I feare our journey will be exceeding troublesome: for to speak troth, since I made mine abstinence from Flesh, I have eaten such strange new meates, that my body is very much distempered and swelleth as if it would breake. Alas deare Cousin (said the Beare) what meat is that which maketh you so ill? Uncle (answered he) what will it profit you to know? the meat was simple and meane; we poore men are no Lords, you know, but eate that for necessity, which others eate for wantonnesse: yet not to delay you; that which I eate was honny-combes, great, full and most pleasant, which compelled by hunger, I eate so unmeasurably, and am thereby infinitly distempered. Ha (quoth Bruine) hony-combes? do you make such slight respect of them, Nephew? why it is meat for the greatest Emperour in the world: Faire Nephew,

The Morall.

In this incounter between the Fox and the Beare, is expresst the dissimulation of two wicked persons, each plotting to do the other

phew; helpe mée but to some of that honey, and command mée whilst I live; for one little part thereof, I will be your servant everlastingly. Sure said the For (Uncle) you but jest with me: but jest with you (replyed Bruine) beshrew my heart then: for I am in that serious earnest, that for one licke thereat you shall make me the faithfullst of all your kindred. Nay (said the For) if you be in earnest, then know I will bring you where so much is, that ten of you shall not be able to devoure it at a meale, onely for your love sake, which above all things I desire, Uncle. Not ten of us (said the Beare:) it is impossible: for had I all the honey betwixt Hibla and Portugall, yet I could in a short space eat it all my selfe. Then know Uncle (quoth the For) that nære at hand here dwelleth a husbandman named Lanfert, who is master of so much honey, that you cannot consume in seven yéares, which for your love and friendship sake I will put into your safe possession. Bruine mad upon the honey, swore, that to have but one good meale thereof, he would not onely be his faithfull friend, but also stop the mouthes of all his adversaries. Reynard smiling at his easie beliefe, said, If you will have seven tun, Uncle, you shall have it. These words pleased the Beare so well, and made him so pleasant, that he could not stand for laughing.

Well thought the For, this is good fortune, sure I will leade him where he shall laugh more measurably: and then said, Uncle, we must delay no time, and I will spare no pain for your sake, which for none of my kinne I would performe. The Beare gave him many thanks, and so away they went, the For promising him as much honey as he could beare, but meant as many strokes as he could undergoe: in the end they came to Lanferts house, the sight whereof made the Beare rejoyce. This Lanfert was a stout and lusty Carpenter, who the other day had brought into his yard a great Oake, which (as their manner is) he began to cleave, and had struck into it two wedges, in such wise, that the cleft stood a great way open: at which the For rejoyced much, for it was answerable to his wish, so that with a laughing countenance he said to the Beare, Behold now deare Uncle, and be carefull of your

 selfe,

mischiefe: wherein though the wisest commonly get the victory at first, yet the just cause in the end prevaileth. In the Beares greedines to eate honey is expresst, the lascivious inconstancie of a loose and unrestrained nature, that for a minutes injoying of their own delights, quite forget the businesse and cares they have in hand. In the Fox is expressed the cunning of wisdome, which ever casts out (to loose natures) those baytes of delight, which being swallowed with greedinesse, do ever choake the swallower, as appeareth by the Beare, who is not

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onely wounded, and in danger of his life, but alſo made a mocke and ſcorn to his enemies. Alſo by the cruelty uſed on the Beare by the common people, is ſhewed, how when an ill man is once ſnared in his vices, how every one, of what degree ſoever, from the higheſt to the loweſt, are ready to proſecute and revenge themſelves for the ills they have received.



ſelfe, for within this tree is ſo much honey, that it is unmeaſurable, try if you can get into it, yet good Uncle eate moderately: for albeit the combes are ſweet and good, yet a ſurfeit is dangerous, and may be troubleſome to your body, which I would not for a world, ſince no harme can come to you, but muſt be my diſhonour. Sorrow not for me, Nephew Reynard,

(ſaid

ſaid the Beare) nor think mée ſuch a foole that I cannot temper mine appetite. It is true my beſt Uncle, I was too bold. I pray you enter in at the end, and you ſhall find your deſire. The Beare with all haſte entred the trée, with his two féete forward, and thruſt his head into the cleft, quite over the eares: which when the Fox perceived, hée inſtantly ranne and puld the wedges out of the trée, ſo that hée lockt the Beare faſt therein, and then neither flattery nor anger availed the Beare, for the Nephew had by his deceit brought the Uncle into ſo faſe a priſon, that it was impoſſible by any Art to free himſelfe of the ſame. Alas, what profited now his great ſtrength and valour? why they were both cauſes of more veration: and finding himſelfe deſtitute of all relief, hée began to howle and bray, and with ſcratching and tumbling to make ſuch a noyſe, that Lanfert amazed, came haſtily out of his houſe, having in his hand a ſharpe hooke, whileſt the Beare lay wallowing and roaring within the trée, which the Fox a farre off ſeeing, hée ſaid to the Beare in ſcorne, Is the honey good (Uncle) which



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you eate? how do you? eat not too much I beseech you: pleasant things are apt to surfeit, and you may hinder your journey to the Court: when Lanfert cometh (if your belly be full) he will give you drink to digest it, and wash it down your throat: and having thus said, he went towards his Casket. But by this time, Lanfert finding the Beare fast taken in the tree: he ran to his neighbours and desired them to come into his yard, for there is a Beare fast taken there. Which being noysed through all the Towne, there was neither man, nor woman, nor child, but ranne thither, some with one weapon, and some with another; as Goades, Rakes, Broomstaves, or what they could gather up: the Priest had the handle of the Crosse, the Clarke, the holy-water sprinckled, and the Priests wife Dame Jullocke with her distaffe, for she was then spinning: nay the olde Beldames came that had nere a tooth in their heads. This army put Bruine into a great feare, being none but himselfe to withstand them, and hearing the clamour of the noyse which came thundering upon him, he wrastled and pulled so extremely, that he got out his head, but left behinde him all the skinne, and his eares also: in so much that never creature beheld a fouler or more deformed Beast; for the blood covering all his face, and his hands leaving the clawes and skin behind them, nothing remained but ugliness; 'twas an ill market the Beare came to, for he lost both motion and light, feet and eyes: but notwithstanding this torment, Lanfert the Priest, and the whole Parish came upon him, and so becudgell'd him about his body part, that it might well be a warning to all his misery, to know that ever the wrathest shall still go most to the walles: This the Beare found by experience, for every one exercised the height of their furies upon him; even Houghlin with the crooked legge, and Lu-



Also by the cruelty used on the Beare by the common people, is shewed, how when an ill man is once snared in his vices, how every one, of what degree soever, from the highest to the lowest, are ready to prosecute and revenge themselves for the ills they have received.

selfe, for within this tree is so much honey, that it is unmeasurable, try if you can get into it, yet good Uncle eate moderately: for albeit the combes are sweet and good, yet a surfeit is dangerous, and may be troublesome to your body, which I would not for a world, since no harme can come to you, but must be my dishonour. Sorrow not for me, Nephew Reynard,

(said

all, there was Birkin, and Annes-Ablequake, Bane the Priest with his staffe, and Dame Iullocke his wife, all these so belabour'd the Beare, that his life was in great danger: the poore Beare in this massacre sate and sighed extreamly, groning under the burthen of their stroakes, of which Lanferts were the greatest and thundered most dreadfully, for Dame Podge of Casport was his Mother, & his Father was Marob the Steeple-maker, a passing stout man when he was alone: Bruine received of him many showres of stones, till Lanferts Brother rushing before the rest with a staffe, stroke the Beare in the head such a blow, that hée could neither heare nor see. so that awaking from the astonishment, the Beare lept into the River adjoyning, through a cluster of wives there standing together, of which hée threw divers into the water which was large and deepe, 'mongst whom the Parsons wife was one; which the Parson seeing how she floated like a Sea-mew, he left striking the Beare, and cried to the rest of the company, helpe, oh helpe, Dame Iullocke is in the water, helpe both men and women, for whosoever saves her, I give frée pardon of all their sinnes and transgressions, and remit all penance imposed whatsoever: this heard, every one left the Beare to helpe Dame Iullocke, which as soone as the Beare saw, he cut the streame and swam away as fast as hée could, but the Priest with a great noyse pursued him, crying in his rage; Turne villaine, that I may be revenged of thée, but the Beare swam in the strength of the streame, and suspected not his calling, for he was proud that hée was by escaped from them: onely hée bitterly curst the Honey tree and the Fore, which had not onely betray'd him, but had made him lose his hoode from his face, and his gloves from his fingers: in this sort hée swam some three miles downe the water, in which time he grew so weary, that he went on land to get ease, where blood trickling down his face, he groned, sighed, [illegible] which when the Fox perceived, hée instantly ranne and pulld the wedges out of the tree, so that hée lockt the Beare fast therein, and then neither flattery nor anger availed the Beare, for the Nephew had by his deceit brought the Uncle into so safe a prison, that it was impossible by any Art to free himselfe of the same. Alas, what profited now his great strength and valour? why they were both causes of more vexation: and finding himselfe destitute of all relief, hée began to howle and bray, and with scratching and tumbling to make such a noyse, that Lanfert amazed, came hastily out of his house, having in his hand a sharpe hooke, whilest the Beare lay wallowing and roaring within the tree, which the Fox a farre off seeing, hée said to the Beare in scorne, Is the honey good (Uncle) which



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that the Beare was certainly slain; & therefore said to himselfe, My fortune is as I wisht it, for the greatest enemy I had in the Court is now dead, nor can any man suspect me guilty thereof: but as hee spake these words, looking towards the River, hee espied where Bruine the Beare lay and rested, which strucke his heart with griefe, & he rayled against Lanfert the Carpenter, saying, Silly foole that thou wert, what mad man would haue lost such good venison, especially being so fat and wholesome and for which hee tooke no paines, for hee was taken to his hand, any man would have beene proud of the fortune which thou neglectest. Thus fretting & chiding, he came to the River where hee found the Beare all wounded and bloody, of which Reynard was onely guilty, yet in scorne hee said to the Beare, Mon Sire, *Dieu vous garde*. O thou foule red villaine, said the Beare to himselfe, what impudence is like to this? but the Fox went on with his speech, and said, What Uncle? have you forgot any thing at Lanferts, or have you payed him for the honey-combes you stole? if you have not, it will redound much to your disgrace, which before you shall undergoe, I will pay him for them my selfe, sure the honey was excellent good, and I know much more of the same price; Good Uncle, tell mee before I goe, into what order doe you meane to enter, that you weare this new-fashioned Hood? will you be a Monk, an Abbot, or a Frier? surely hee that shaved your crown, hath cropt your eares, also your fore-top is lost, and your gloves are gone, fie sloven, goe not bare-handed, they say you can sing Peccavi rarely. These taunts made Bruine mad with rage; but because hee could not take revenge, hee was content to let him talke his pleasure: then after a small rest he plunged againe into the River, and swam downe the streame, and landed on the other-side, where hee began with much griefe to meditate how hee might get to the Court, for hee had lost his eares, his talons, and all the skin off his feet, so that hee had a thousand deathes followed him, hee could not goe, and yet of necessity hee must moane, that in the end compelled by extremity, hee set his buttocks on the ground, and tumbled his body over and over, so by degrees tumbling now halfe a mile, and then halfe a mile, in

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the end hée tumbled to the Court, where divers beholding his straunge manner of approach, they thought some prodigie had come towards them, but in the end the King knew him, and grew angry saying; It is sir Bruine my servant, what villaines have wounded him thus, or where hath he bèen that he brings his death thus along with him? O my dread soveraigne Lord the King (cried out the Beare) I complain me grievously unto you: behold how I am massacred, which I humbly beseech you revenge on that false Reynard, who for doing your royall pleasure, hath brought me to this disgrace and slaughter. Then said the King, How durst he doe this? now by my crowne I sweare I will take the revenge which shall make the traytors tremble: whereupon the King sent for all his Counsaile, & consulted, how, and in what sort to persecute against the Fox, where it was generally concluded, that he should be againe summoned to appeare, and answer his trespasses; and the party to summon him, they appointed to be Tybert the Cat, as well for his gravity as wisedome: all which pleased the King well.

CHAP. 5.

How the King sent *Tybert* the Cat for *Reynard* the Fox.

THEN the King called for Sir Tybert the Cat, and said to him, Sir Tybert, you shall goe to Reynard and say to him the second time, and command him to appeare, and answer his offences, for though he be cruell to other beasts, yet to you hée is courteous, assure him if hée faile at your first summons, that I will take so severe a course against him and his posterity, that his example shall terrifie all offenders. Then said Tybert the Cat, My dread Lord, they were my foes which thus advised you, for there is nothing in me, that can force him either to come or tarry: I beseech your Maiestie send some one of greater power, I am little and feeble: besides, if noble Sir Bruine, that is so strong & mighty, could not inforce him, what will my weakenesse availe? The King replyed, It is your wis-

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The Morall.

By the sending of the Cat to fetch the Fox, is expresst the care of Governors, that when they have bin deceived by the pride and ostentation of such as they did imploy, and thought discreet; that then they seek out those that are knowne wise, and imploy them, because wisdome is even circumvented by a greater wisdome. In the Cats much lothnes to go, is expresst, the unwillingness a wise man hath to meddle in dangerous matters, especially when they hold the party with whom they have to do, of a reach far beyond them, yet when authority commands, they

dome Sir Tibert, I imploy, and not your strength, and in my prevaile with Art, when violence returnes with lost labour. Well, said the Cat, since it is your pleasure, it must be accomplished: heaven make my fortune better then my heart presageth. This Tybert made things in readinesse, and went towards Mallepardus, and in his journey he saw come flying towards him one of Saint Martins birds, to whom the Cat cryed aloud, Haile gentle bird, I beseech thee turne thy wings, and flie on my right hand: but the bird turned the contrary way; and flew on his left side: then grew the Cat very heavy, for he was wise and skilfull in Augurisme, and knew the signe to be ominous, nevertheless (as many do) he armed himselfe with better hope; and went to Mallepardus, where he found the Fox standing before his Castle gates, to whom Tybert said, Health to my faire cousin Reynard: so it is that the King by me summons you to the Court, in which if you faile or deferre time, there is nothing more assured unto you, then a cruell and a suddaine death. The Fox answered, Welcome deare cousin Tybert, I obey your command, and wish my Lord the King infinite dayes of happinesse, onely let me intreat you to rest with me to night, and take such cheare as my simple house affordeth, and to morow as early as you will, we will go towards the Court, for I have no kinsman I trust so dearely as your selfe. Here was with me the other day the trecherous Knight Sir Bruine the Beare, who look't upon me with that tyrannous cruelty that I would not for the wealth of an Empire have hazarded my person with him: but my deare cousin, with you I will go, were a thousand sicknesses upon me. Tybert replyed, You speak like a noble Gentleman, and me thinks it is best now to go forward, for the Moon shines as bright as day. May deare cousin (said the Fox) let us take day before us, so may we incounter with our friends; the night is full of danger and suspition. Well, said the Cat, if it be your pleasure, I am content, what shall we eat? Reynard said, truly my store is small, the best I have is a honey-combe, too pleasant and sweet, what think you of it? Tybert replyeth, it is meat I little respect and seldome eat: I had rather have one Mouse then all the Honey

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in Europe. A Mouse said Reynard) why my deare cousin, héere dwelleth a Priest hard by, who hath a Barne by his house so full of Mice, that I thinke halfe the Waynes in the Parish are not able to beare them. O deare Reynard (quoth the Cat) doe but lead mée thither, and make mée your servant for ever: why (said the For) but love you Mice so exceedingly? Beyond expression (quoth the Cat) why a Mouse is beyond Venison, or the delicatest Cates on Princes tables: therefore conduct mée thither, and command my friendship in any matter: had you slaine my father, my mother, and all my kinne, I would clearely forgive you.

must obey though never so many dangers attend them.

CHAP. 7.

How *Tybert* the Cat was deceived by *Reynard* the Fox.

THen said Reynard, Sure you doe but jest. No by my life, said the Cat. Well then (quoth the Fore) if you bée in ernest, I will so worke, that this night I will fill your belly; 'tis not possible, said the Cat: then follow mée, said the Fore: for I will bring you to the place presently: thus away they went with all spéed to the Priests Barne, which was well walled about with a mudde wall, where but the night before the Fore had broken in, and stolne from the Priest an exceeding fat Hen; at which the Priest was so angry, that hée had set a grin or snare before the hole to catch him at his next comming, which the false For knew perfitly, and therefore said to the Cat, Sir Tybert, creepe in at the hole, and beléeve it you shall not tarry a minutes space, but you shall have more Mice then you are able to devour: harke, you may heare how they pepe: when your belly is full, come againe, and I will stay and await for you here at this hole, that to morrow wée may goe together to the Court: but good cousin, stay not too long, for I know, my wife will hourely expect us. Then (said the Cat) thinke you I may safely enter in at this hole? these Priests are wise, and subtill, and couch

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their danger of cloſe, that raſhnes is ſoone ouer taken. Why couſin Tybert, (ſaid the Fox) I neuer ſaw you turne coward before; what man, feare you a ſhaddow? The Cat aſhamed at his feare, ſprang quickly in at the hole, but was preſently caught faſt by the necke with the Gin, which aſſoone as the Cat felt and perceiued, hee quickly leapt backe againe, ſo that the

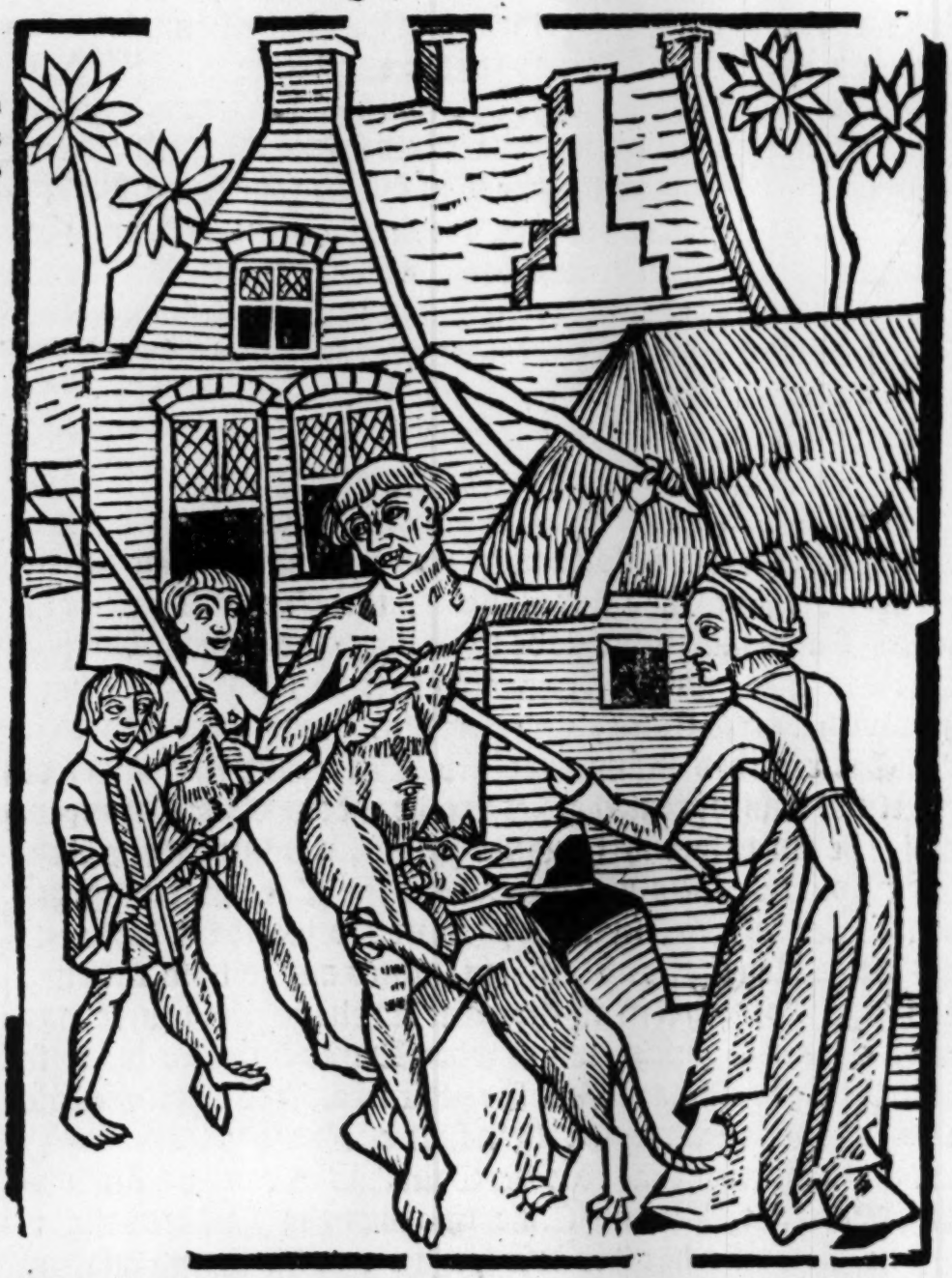
the snare running close together, hée was halfe strangled, so that hée began to struggle, and cry out & exclaime most piteously. Reynard stood before the hole and heard all, at which hée infinitely reioyced, and in great scorne said: Cousin Tybert, I love you Nice: I hope they be well fed for your sake; knew the Priest or Martinet of your feasting, I know them of so good disposition, they would bring you sauce quickly; mée thinks you sing at your meat, is that the Court fashion? if it bée, I would Isegrim the Wolfe were coupled with you, that all my friends might bée feasted together: but all this while the poore Cat was fast and mewed so piteously, that Martynet leapt out of bed, and cried to his people: Arise, for the théefe is taken that hath stolne our Hens: With these words the Priest unfortunatly rose up and awaked all in his house, crying, The Fox is taken, the Fox is taken! and arising starke naked, hée gave to Iullocke his wife an Offring candle to light, and then comming first to Tibert, hée smote him with a great staffe, and after him many other: so that the Cat received many deadly blowes, and the anger of Martinet was so great, that hée stroke out one of the Cats eyes, which he did, to second the naked Priest, thinking at one blow to dash out the Cats braynes: But the Cat perceiving his death so neare him, in a desperat moode hée leapt betwéene the Priests legges, and with his clawes and téeth so fastened on his genitors, that in all the great Turkes Seralia, there was not a cleaner Eunuch: which when Dame Iullocke his wife saw, she cryed out and sware she had rather have lost the whole Offrings of seven yéares, then that one poore little morsell: and with all curst that ever the Gin was invented, and calling Martynet, Sée, my sonne, this was thy Fathers delight, and my Iewell: but it is now spoyled, to his shame and my utter losse forever: for howsoever hée bée cured, yet to mée hée can never more bée comfortable. All this while Reynard stood before the hole, and saw what passed, and laughed so extremely, that his body was ready to breake: saying to Dame Iullocke, Fie woman doe not torment your selfe so, the Priest hath lost but one stone, you may yet receive due benevolence:

The Morall.

By the Foxe insnaring of the Cat is expresst, how whenwitemen will trusttheir enemies, or give credit to reconciled Friends, they evermore miscarry in their designes; and therefore every wise man should so temper his Affections, that he grow not fond of any thing in his enemies power. How agreeable soever it bee either with his Nature or his power. For by the bayts of an enemy are onely gilded pills, which are faire to looke on, but most bitter to taste; By the mischiefe which the Priest received, is shewed that they which harme watch, harme catch, and that

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the trappe which men now and then ſet for others brings hurt to themſelves



volence: there is many a Chappell in which but one Bell rings. Now whileſt the Fore thus ſcoffed the Prieſts wife, the poore Prieſt fell downe in a ſwoone, ſo that every man left the Cat, to revive the Prieſt: Which whilſt they were doing, the Fore returned home to Malepardus, for hee imagined the Cat was paſt all hope to eſcape: but the poore Cat ſeeing,

ſéeing all her foes buſſe about the Prieſt, ſhée preſently began to gnaw and byte the corp, till ſhe had sheared it quite aſunder in the midſt: Which done, ſhe leapt out of the hole and went roaring & tumbling (like the Beare) to the Kings Court. But before hée got thither, it was faire day, and the Sunne being riſen, he entered the Court, like the pittifulleſt beaſt that ever was beheld; For the Fores craft his body was beaten and bruiſed, his bones ſhivered and broken; one of his eyes loſt, and his skinne rent and mangled. This when the King beheld and ſaw Tybert ſo pittifully mangled, he grew infinitely angry, and tooke counſaile once more, how to revenge the injuries upõ the For. After ſome conſultation, Grimbart the Brocke, Reynards Sisters ſonne, ſaid to the reſt of the Kings Counſaile, My good Lords, though my Uncle were twice ſo euill as theſe cõplaints make him; yet there is remedy enough againſt his miſchiefes: therefore it is fit you doe him Juſtice as to a man of his ranck, which is, he muſt be the third time ſummoned, & if then he appeare not, make him guilty of all that is laid againſt him. Thẽ the King demanded of the Brocke, whom he thought fitteſt to ſummon him, or who would be ſo deſperate to hazard his hands, his eares, nay his life with one ſo tyrannous and irreligious? Truly (anſwered the Brocke) if it pleaſe your Majeſty, I am that deſperate perſon, who dare adventure to carry the meſſage to my moſt ſubtill kinſman, if your highneſſe but command mée.

CHAP. 8.

How *Grimbard* the Brocke was ſent to bid the Fox to the Court.

THEN ſaid the King, Goe Grimbart, for I command you; yet take héede of Reynard, for he is ſubtill and malicious. The Brocke thanked his Majeſty, & ſo taking humble leave, went to Mallipardus, where he found Reynard and Ermelin his wife, ſporting with their young whelps; then having ſaluted his Uncle and his Aunt, hée ſaid: Take héede, faire Uncle, that

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The Morall,

In the ſending of the Brocke to fetch the Fox, is ſhewed that when the vicious cannot be overtaken & brought to anſwer, then it is meete to uſe their owne weapons againſt them, and with policy, which can no way be better done then by imploying their kindred, and ſuch as they moſt dearely affect to perſwade them, becauſe Affection is ever a prevailing Orator.

your abſence from the Court adde not more miſchiefe to your cauſe, then the offence doth deſerve: believe it, it is high time you appeare at the Court, ſince your delay doth beget but more danger and puniſhment, the complaints againſt you are infinite, and this is your third time of Summons: Therefore your wiſedome may tell you, that if you delay but one day further,



thers

there is not left to you or yours any hope of mercy: for within three dayes your Castle will be demolished, your kindred made slaves, and your selfe exempted for a publique example Therefore my best Uncle, I beseech you recollect your wisdome, and goe with mee presently to the Court, I doubt not but your discretion shall excuse you; For you have past thorow many as eminent perils, and made your foes ashamed, whil'st the Innocence of your cause hath borne you spotlesse from the Tribunall. Reynard answered; Nephew, you say true and I will be advised and goe with you, not to answer offences: but in that I know, the Court stands in neede of my counsaile; the Kings mercy I doubt not, if I may come to speake with his Majesty, though mine offences were tenne times doubled, for I know the Court cannot stand without me, and that shall his highnes understand truely, though I know I have many enemies, yet it troubles mee not: for mine Innocence shall awaken their injuries, and they shall know that in high matters of State and policie, Reynard cannot bee missing: they may well harpe upon things, but the pyth and ground must come from my relation: it is the envie of others hath made mee leave the Court, for though I know, their shallownes cannot disgrace me, yet may their multitudes oppresse mee; Nevertheleste (Nephew) I will goe with you to the Court, and answer for my selfe, and not hazard the welfare of my Wife and Children; the King is too mighty, and though hee doe mee injury, yet will I beare it with patience. This spoke, hee turn'd to his wife and said, Dame Ermelin have car of my children, especially Reynikin my yongest Sonne, for he had much of my love, and I hope will follow my steps; also Rossell is passing hopefull, and I love them intirely; therefore regard them, and if I escape doubt not but my love shall requite you. At this leave-taking Ermelin wept, and her children howled: for their Lord and victualer was gone, and Malepardus left unprovided.

CHAP. 9.

CHAP. 9.

How *Reynard* shrove him to *Grimbart* the Brock.

The Morall.

The shrift of the Fox sheweth, that when evill men are indanger, then they ever faine most religion, and by a show of penitence win pitty from those that dive not into the depth of their deceit and knavery, whereby though they be never so evill, yet they get a good name, & steale opinion of the multitude; by the absolution which the Brocke gave the Fox, is shewed, how easily an honest simple mā may be brought to beleeve a knaves penance, & how

WHEN Reynard and Grimbart had gone a good way on their journey, Reynard stayed and said, Deare nephew, blame me not if my heart befull of care, for my life is in great hazard, yet to blot out my sinnes with repentance, and to cast off the burden, give me leave to shrive my selfe unto you; I know you are holy, and having received penance for my sin, my soule will be at quiet. Grimbart bade him proceed. Then said the Fox, Confitebor tibi pater. Nay said the Brocke, if you will shrive you to me, doe it in English, that I may understand you: Then said Reynarrd, I have grievously offended against all the Beasts that live, and especially mine Uncle Bruine the Beare, whom I lately massacred, and Tybert the Cat, whom I insnared in a grin. I have trespassed against Chauntecleare & his Children, and have devoured many of them; nay, the King hath not béene quit of my malice, for I have slandred him and his Quéen, I have betrayed Isegrim the Wolfe, & called him Uncle, though no part of his blood ranne in my veines: I made him a Monke of Elmane, where I became also one of the order, onely to doe him open mischiefe. I made him bind his féete to a bell-rope to teach him to ring, but the peale had like to have cost him his life, the men of the parish beat and wounded him so sore: after this I taught him to catch fish, but he was soundly beaten therefore, and féelith the stripes at this instant. I led him to steale Bacon at a rich Priests house, where he fed so extremely, that not being able to get out where he got in, I raised all the Towne upon him; and then went where the Priest was set at meate with a fat Hen before him: which Hen I snatcht away, so that the Priest cried out, Kill the Fox, for never man saw thing so strange, that the Fox should come into my house, and take my meate from before mée.

This is a boldnes beyond knowledge: and with these words hée threw his knife at mée but hée mist mée, and I ranne a way whilest

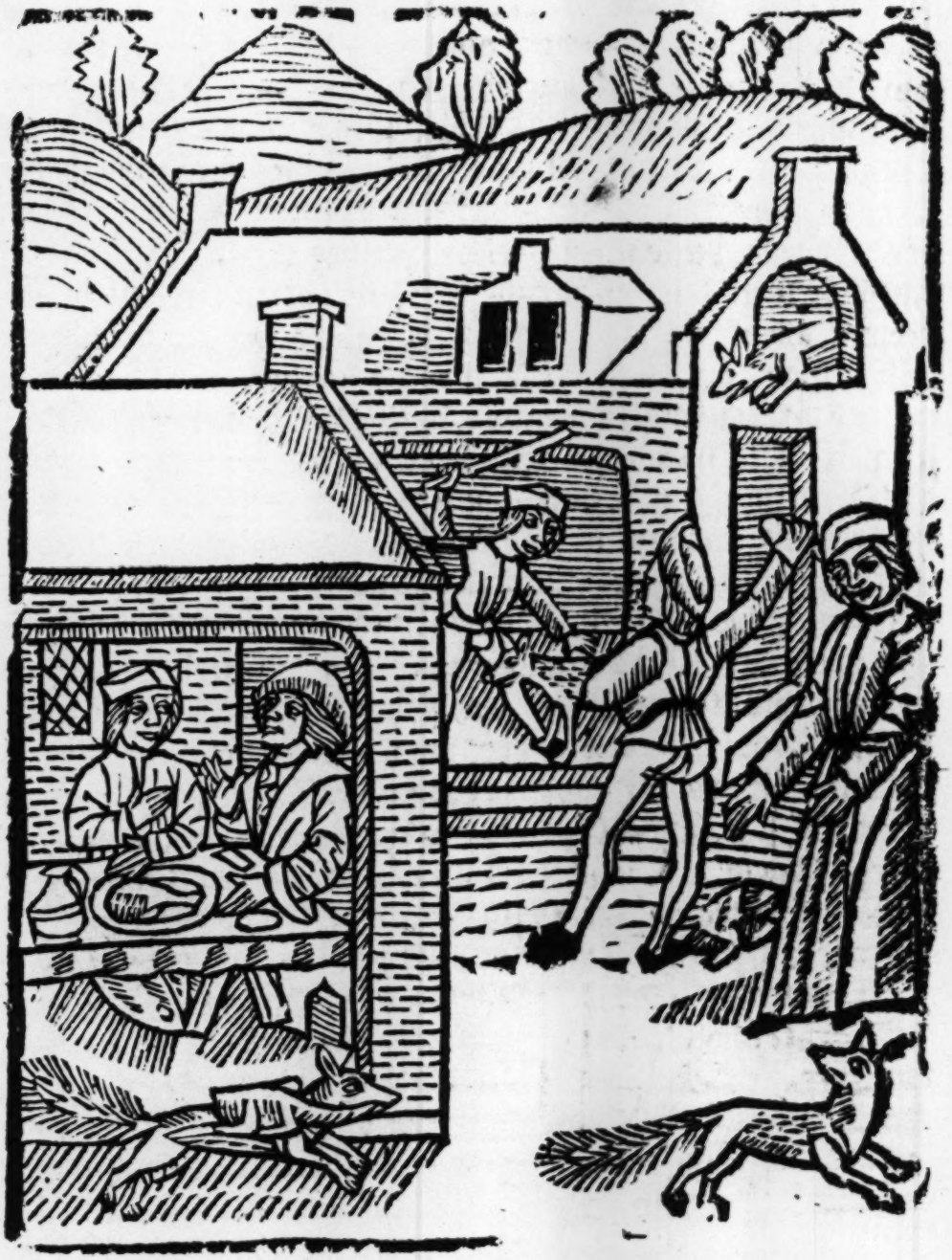


apt they are to forgive treſpaſſes upon fained ſorrow, which indeed ſhhold not bee done without a more ſtrict & ſevere examination. The Foxes leading the Brocke by themonaſtry, and taking the Capon, ſheweth, that where wickedneſſe is rooted and made as it were a habit, that there no: withſtanding all hypocriſie, it will ſtill flaſh out, and a knave will be a knave in deſpite of all perſwaſions and good counſailes

Reynard the Fox

whileſt hée purſued mée crying, Kill the Fox, Kill the, Fox, and after him a world of people, whom I led to the place where Iſegrim was, and there I let the Yenne fall, for it was too heavy for mée (yet much againſt my will) and then ſpringing through a hole, I got into ſafety, Now as the Prieſt tooke up the Yenne, hée eſpyed Iſegrim, and then cried out, Strike

 friends,



friend, ſtrike, héere is the Wolfe, by no meanes let him eſcape us: Then the people ranne alltogether with clubs and ſtaves, and with a dreadfull noyſe giving the poore Wolfe many a deadly blow, and ſome throwing ſtones after him, hit him ſuch mortall blowes on the body, that the Wolfe fell downe as if he had bin dead, which perceiv'd, they took him & drag'd him by the

héeles

hæles ouer ſtockes and ſtones, and in the end threw him into a ditch without the village, and there hé lay all night, but how hé got thence I know not. Another time I led him to a place where I told him were ſeuen Hennes and a Cock, ſet on a pearch all luſty and fat, and hard by the place ſtood a fall doze, on which wée climed: then I told him if hé would créepe in at the doze, hé ſhould finde the Hennes. Then Iſegrim with much ioy went laughing to the doze, and entring in a little, and groping about, he ſaid Reynard, you abuſe me, foz here is nothing; then replyed I, uncle, tehy are further, and if you will haue them, you muſt aduentare foz them: thoſe which uſed to ſit there, I my ſelfe haue long ſéene: at this the Wolfe going a little further, I gaue him a puſh fozward, ſo that he fell downe in the vault, and his fall was ſo great, and made ſuch a noyſe that they which were aſléepe in the houſe, awaked and cried, that ſomething was fallen downe at the trap doze: whereupon they aroſe and lighted a candle, and eſpying him, they beate and wounded him to death. Thus I brought the Wolfe to many hazards of his life, moze then I can now either remember oz reckon, which as they come to my minde, I will reueale to you hereafter. I haue alſo grieuouſly offended againſt Dame Arſewind his wife, of which I muſt repent mé, foz it was highly to her diſhonour. Uncle, ſaid Grimbart, I underſtand you not, you make your ſhrift unperfect, foz you ſay you haue offended, but declare not in what. Pardon mé, Nephew, I know you hate to heare diſhonour of women: the truth is, I haue layne with her. Thus haue I told you my wickedneſſe, now order my penance as ſhall ſéeme fit in your diſcretion. Grimbart was both learned and wiſe, and therefoze brake a rod from a trée, and ſaid, Nephew, You ſhall thzée times ſtrike your body with this rod, and then lay it downe upon the ground, and ſpring thzée times ouer it without bowing your legges oz ſtumbling: then ſhall you take it up and kiſſe it gently in ſigne of mékeneſſe and obedience to your penance: which done, you are abſolued of your ſinnes committed to this day, foz I pronounce unto you cleare remiſſion. At this the Fox waxed glad, and then Grimbart ſaid unto him; Gé that hence,

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Reynard the Fox

forth Uncle you doe good workes: reade your Psalter, goe to Church, fast vigils, keepe holy dayes, give almes, and leave your sinfull and evill life, your theft and your treason, and then no doubt you shall attaine mercy. The Fox promised to performe all this, and so they went together towards the Court: but a little besides the way as they went, stood a religious house of Nunnes, where many Geese, Hennes and Capons went without the wall: and as they went talking the Fox led Grimbart out of his right way to that place, and finding the Pullain walking without the Barne, amongst which was a fat young Capon, which strayed a little from his fellowes: at which hee suddainely leapt and caught him by the feathers, which flew about his eares; but the Capon escaped: which Grimbart seeing, said, Accursed man, what will you doe, will you for a silly Pullet fall again into all your sinnes? mischiefe it selfe would not doe it: to which Reynard answered, Pardon me deare Nephew, I had forgotten my selfe, but I will aske forgivenesse, and mine eye shall no more wander: and then they turnes over



a little

a little Bridge: but the Fox still glaunced his eye towards the Pullaine, and could by no meanes refraine it, for the ill that was bred in his bones, still stuck to his flesh, and his minde carried his eyes that way as long as hee could see them: which the Brocke noting, said, Fie, dissembling cousin, why wander your eyes so after the Pullaine? The Fox replyed; Nephew, you doe mee injury so to mistake mee, for mine eyes wandred not, but I was saying a Pater noster for the soules of all the Pullaine and Geese which I have slaine and betrayed, in which devotion you hindred mee. Well, said Grimbart, it may be so, but your glaunces are suspitious. Now by this time they were come into the way againe, and made haste towards the Court, which assoon as the Fox saw, his heart quaked for feare: for hee knew well the crimes he was to answere for, were infinite and haynous.

CHAP. 10

How the Fox came to the Court, and how he excused himselfe.

As soone as it was bruted in the Court, that Reynard the Fox, and Grimbart his kinsman were arrived there, every one from the highest to the lowest prepared himselfe to cõplaine of the Fox: at which Reynards heart quaked but his countenance kept the old garbe, and hee went as proudly as ever hee was wont with his Nephew through the high streete, and came as gallantly into the Court, as if he had beene the Kings sonn, and as cleare from trespasse, as the most innocent whosoever: & when he came before the chaire of Estate, in which the King sate, he said; Heaven give your Majestie glory and renowne above al the Princes of the earth: I assure your Highnesse there was never King had a truer servant then my selfe hath ever beene to you, and yet am, and so will die: Nevertheles (my dread Lord) I know there bee many in this Court that seeke my confusion, if they could winne belæefe with your Majestie; but you scorne the slaunders of malice, and although in these

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The Morall.

In the Foxes appearing at the Court is ſhewed, that when a malefactor is brought before the Iuſtice, that then is the fit time for all men that have bin injured, to utter their complaints,

payes flatterers habe the moſt roomes in Princes Courts, yet with you it is not ſo, nor ſhall they reape any thing but ſhame for their labour. But the King cut him ſhort at theſe words, and ſaid, Peace, trayterous Reynard, I know your diſſimulation, and can expound your flattery, but both ſhall now faile you: thinke you I can be caught with the ſmacke of your words?

wordes? no, it hath too oft deceived mée: the peace which I commanded and swore unto, that have you broken. And as hée would have gone forward, Chauntecleere crying out, O how have I lost this noble peace? Bée still Chauntecleere (said the King) and then hée proceeded, Thou devill among good ones, with what face canst thou say thou lovest mée, and seest all those wretched creatures ready to upbraide thee, whose very wounds yet spout bloody defiance upon thee: and for which, believe thy dearest life shal answer. In nomine Patris, &c. said the Fox, My dread Lord, if Bruines crowne bee bloody, what is that to mée? if your Majestie imployed him in a message, and hée would neglect it to steale hony at the carpenters house, where he received his wounds, how shall I amend it? if revenge hée sought, why did hée not take it himselfe? hée is strong and puissant, it was not for to be lookt for at my weakenesse; As for Tybert the Cat (whom I received with al friendship) if he against my will or advice will steale into the Priests barne to catch Mice and there lose his eyes, nay his life; wherein is mine offence or how become I their guardian? O my dread Lord, you may doe your royall pleasure, and how-ever mine innocence plead, yet your will may adjudge me to what death contents you: I am your vassaile, and have noe suppost but your mercy: I know your strength and mine owne weaknesse, and that my death can yéld you but small satisfaction, yet whatsoever your will is, that to mée shall be most acceptable. And as hée thus spake, Bellin the Ram stept forth, and his Ewe dame Oleway, and besought the King to heare their complaint; with them Bruine the Beare and all his mighty linage. Also Tybert the Cat, Isegrim the Wolfe, Kyward the Hare, and Panther, the Boze; the Cammel and Bruel the Gowse, the Kid and the Goate, Bauldwin the Asse, Bortel the Bul, and Hamell the Dre, the Mésell, Chauntecleere the Cocke, and Partlet with all her children. All these with one entire noyse cried out against the Fox, and so moved the King with their complaints, that the Fox was taken and arrested.

because then onely redresse is to bee had. In the Lyon is expresst the awfulnesse of Iustice, and how terrible it is to every offender, especially such as have the guilt of conscience within them. The Foxes bold behaviour shewes, that impudent malefactors, when they are called in question, make audacity their chiefe guard, and by rayling against their adversaries, doe seeke to extenuate the looseneſse of their offences, but truth and justice will not be hoodwinckt.

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CHAp. 11.

How the Fox was arested and judged to death.

VPON this arrest a Parliament was called, and every voyce went that Reynard should bee executed: notwithstanding hee answered every objection severally, though great Art was used both in the one and the other; to the wonderfull admiration of all that heard him. But witnesses examined, and every proofe made pregnant, the Fox was condemned & Judgement was given, that hee should bee hanged till his body were dead. At which sentence the Fox cast downe his head, for all his Jollity was lost, and no flattery nor no words now prevailed. This done, Grimbart his Nephew, and divers others neere him in blood, (which could not indure to see him dye) took their leave of the King & departed from the Court. When the King noted what gallant young Gentlemen departed thence, all sad and weeping, being neere of the Fores blood & alliance, hee said to himselfe, It behoveth us to take good and mature counsaile though Reynard have some faults, yet hee hath many friends, and more vertues. As the King was thus thinking, the Cat said to the Beare: Sir Bruine, and you Sir Isegrim, Why are you slowe in this Execution? the Even is almost come, and here be many bushes and hedges, if he escape and quit himselfe of this danger, his subtilty is so great, that not all the Art in the world shall ever againe intangle him: If you meane to execute him, then proceede, for before the Gallows can bee made, it will be darke night. At these words Isegrim remembring himselfe, said, There is a payre of Gallowes neere at hand (and with that fetch'd a deepe sigh) which the Cat noting, said: Are you afraid Sir Isegrim, or is this execution against your mind? you may remember that it was onely his worke, that both your brethren were hang'd: and sure had you Judgment, you would thanke him for the same, and not thus stand trifling time. But Isegrim halfe angry answered, Your anger puts out the eye of your reason, yet had wee a Halter that would fit his

necke, who would soone dispatch him, Reynard that had been silent a great while, said: I beseech you shorten my paine: for



Tybert hath a cord strong enough, in which himselfe was hang at the Priests house, when he bit off the Priests genitors, for he can climb well and is swift: Let him be mine

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The Morall.

By the violence of the Beare, the Wolfe and the Cat, in pursuing the Fox to death, and making themselves executioners, is shewed the great malice of great persons against their enemies, and such from whom they have received mischiefe, in which they will many times rather hazard their Honours, then their revenges so blind is wrath, and so deformed it makes men that are cloathed therewith.

The Foxes patience and milde temper, shewes, that when men are in extremity, they must make use of all their vertues, especially meekenesse.

Executioner, for it neither becommeth Isegrim nor Bruine thus [illegible] you are fet to bee my hangmen, play your parts and delay time: goe before Bruine, and leade my way; follow Isegrim, and beware I escape not: you say well said Bruine, and it is the best counsaile I have heard you give. So forth they went, and Isegrim and all his friends guarded the For, leading him by the neck, and other parts of his body: when the For felt this usage, he was dismaid, yet said: O why doe you put your selves (my best kinsemen) to this paine, to doe me hurt: beleeve it, I could well aske you forgivenesse, though my paines be pleasant unto you, yet well I know, did my Aunt your wife understand of my trouble, shee would for old affection sake not see mee thus tormented: But I am subject to your will, and can endure your worst malice: as for Bruine and Tybert, I leave my revenge to Justice, and wish you the reward of Traytors, if you doe not to mee the worst of your powers: I know my worst fortune, and death can come but once unto man; I wish it were past already, for to me it is no terror: I saw my Father dye, and how quickly hee vanished, therefore the worst of death is familiar unto me: then said Isegrim, let us goe, for his curse shal not light on mee by delaying: So hee on one side, and Bruine on the other, led the poore For to the Gallowes; Tybert running before with the halter, hopes to be revenged of his wrongs formerly received. When they were come to the place of Execution, the King and Queene, and all the rest of the Nobility, tooke their places to see the For die. Then Reynard full of sorrow, and busily bethinking himselfe, how he might escape that danger, and how to inthral and disgrace his proud enemies, and also how to draw the King on his party, saying to himselfe, Though the King & many others be offended with mee as they have reason, for I have thoroughly deserved it, nevertheless yet I hope to live to be their best friend: During this meditation the Wolfe said: Sir Bruine, now remember your Injuries, and take your revenge in a full measure, for the day is come wee wisht for; Tybert, scorne quickly, and bring the rope to the Gallowes making a running noose, for this day you shall have your [illegible]

[illegible] will of your enemy; and good Sir Bruine take heede he steale not, whil'st I my selfe raise up the Ladder. When all things were prepared, the Fox said. Now may my heart be heavy, for Death stands now in all his horror before mée, and I cannot escape: my dread Lord the King, and you my soveraigne Lady the Queene, and you my Lords that stand to behold to see mée dye, I beseech you grant me this charitable Boone; that I may unlocke my heart before you, and cleare my soule of her burthens, so that hereafter no man may be blamed for mée: which done, my death will bée easie, and the assistance of your prayers will raise my soule to heaven.

for that soonest doth insinuate with mens natures, and drawes forth pittie, whereas roughnesse ever increaseth mischiefe.

CHAP. 12.

How *Reynard* made his Confession before the King.

EVERY creature now tooke compassion on the Fox, and said his request was small, beseeching the King to graunt it: which was done. And then the Fox thus spake: Helpe mée, Heaven: for I see no man here whom I have not offended: yet was this evill no Naturall inclination in mée, for in my youth I was accounted as vertuous as any breathing: this have I have playde with the Lambs all day long, and tooke pleasure in their pretty bleating, yet at last in my play I bit one, and the taste of the Blood was so sweet unto mée, that I approved the Flesh, and both were so sweet, that since I could never forbeare it; This unquiet thought drew mée into the midst amongst the Goates, where hearing the bleating of the little Kids, I slew one of them, and after two more, which slaughter made mée so hardy, that then I fell to murther Hens, Géese and other Vallaine. And thus my crimes increased by custome, and fury to possesse mée, that all was Fish which came to my net, After this [illegible] I met with Isegrim whereas hée lay his under a hollow trée, and hée unfolded unto mée how hée had [illegible] abusing the Woman [illegible] that from that time forward we became sworne brothers and companions: O wretch that I was, for then I had ever curse, for then began the flood of our thefts and slaughters,

he

he stole the great things, I the small; his murthered Nobles, I the meaner Subjects: and in all our actions his share still



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wife and his seven children were served, nothing remained to mée but the bare bones to pick on. This I speake not in that I wanted (for it is well knowne I have more plate, Jewels and coyne then twenty Carts are able to carry,) but onely to shew his ingratitude. When the King heard him speake of this infinite treasure and riches, his heart grew inflamed with a desire thereof, and hée said Reynard, where is that treasure you speake of? The Fox answered, My Lord, I shall willingly tell you, for it is true, the wealth was stolne, and had it not béene stolne in that manner which it was, it had cost your Highnes your life (which heaven I beseech kéepe ever in their protection.) When the Quéene heard that dangerous speech, shé started, and said, What dangers are these you speak of, Reynard? I doe command you upon your soules health, to unfold these doubtfull speeches, and to kéepe nothing concealed which concernes the life of my dread Lord. The Fox with a sorrowfull and sad countenance replied to the Quéene, O my dread soveraigne Lady, at what infinite ease were I, if I might dye at this present! but gracious Madame, your conjuration and the health of mine owne soule so prevaileth with mée; that I will discharge my conscience, and yet speake nothing but what I will make good with the hazard of my damnation. 'Tis true, the King should have béene pittiously murdred by his owne people, and I must confesse by those of my neerest kindred, whom I am unwilling to accuse, did not the health of mine owne soule, and my fealty to the King command the contrary. The King much perplext at this discoveris, said: Is this true Reynard which you protest? The Fox answered, Alas, my dread Lord, you see the case wherein I stand, and how small a sand is left in my poore glasse to runne: Can your Majestie imagine I will now dissemble? what can the whole world availe mée, when my soule perisheth? and at that hé trembled, and looked so pittifully, that the Quéene had great compassion of him, and humbly besought the King for the safety of his owne royall person, to take some pitty of the Fox, and to command all his Subjects to hold their peace, and kéepe silence till hée had spoke the uttermost of his knowledge:

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The Morall.

By the Foxes confession and accusation of his enemies, is expressed a three-fold subtilty in the Fox, First, by his voluntary confession of his faults, is shewed, his sorrow for the same, and the little hope hee had of life, which piercing into the weake nature of the Queene being a woman, and subject to pitty, begot much compassion towards him. 2. The accusing of those whom hee was knowne most assuredly to love, was a meanes to drawbeliefe to that hee spake. 3. The ingaging the life of the King, and making the treason so foule, was a way to affright the

all which was presently done; and the Fox proceeded in this manner: Since it is the pleasure of my soveraigne Lord the King, and that his royall life lyeth in the ballance with my present death, I will freely and boldly unfold this capitall and foule treason, and in the relation not spare any guilty person for any respect whatsoever, whether it be blood, greatnesse, or authority: Know then, my dread soveraigne Lord the King, that my Father by a strange accident digging in the ground, found out King Ermericks treasure, being a masse infinite and innumerable: of which being possest, he grew so proud and haughty: that he held in scorne all the Beasts of the Wildernesse, which before had beene his kinsmen and companions: at last he caused Tybert the Cat to goe into the East Forrest of Arden to Bruine the Beare, and to tender to him his homage and fealty, saying, If it would please him to be King, he should come into Flaunders; where he would shew him meanes how to set the Crowne on his head. Bruine was glad of this Embassage (for he was exceeding ambitious, and had long thirsted for soveraignty) and thereupon came into Flaunders where my Father received him nobly. Then presently hee sent for the wise Grimbard my Nephew, and for Isegrim the Wolfe, and for Tybert the Cat: then these five comming betweene Gaunt and the village called Elst, they held a solemne Counsaile for the space of a whole night: in which by the assistance of the devill, and the strong confidence of my Fathers riches it was there concluded, that your Majestie should bee forthwith murdered: which to effect, they tooke a solemne oath in this manner: The Beare, my father, Grimbard and the Cat, laying their hands on Isegrims crowne, swore first to make Bruine their King, & to place him in the chayre of Estate at Acon, and to set the Emperiall Diadem on his head: and if by any of your Majesties blood and allyance, they should be gain-sayed, that then my father with his treasure should hire those which should utterly chase and roote them out the Forrest. Now after this determination held and finished, it happened that my Nephew Grimbard being on a time high flowne with wine: he discovered this damnable plot to dame Slope-

cade

cade his wife, commanded her upon her life to keepe secret the same: but she forgetfull of her charge, disclosed it in confession to my wife, as they went a pilgrimage ouer an Heath, with like conjuration of secresie: But shee (woman-like) contayned it no longer then till she met with me, & gaue me a full knowledge of all that had passed, yet so as by all meanes I must keep it secret too, for she had sworne by the three Kings of Cullen, never to disclose it: and withall, she gaue me such assurance by certaine tokens, that I right well found all was true which she had spoken: in so much, that the very affright thereof made my haire stand upright, and my heart became like Lead, colde and heavy in my bosome, which made me call to minde the storie of the Frogs, who being free and without subjection, complained to Jupiter, and desired they might have a King to rule and goverme ouer them, and he presently sent them a Storke, which ate and deuoured them up: so that by his tyranny they became the most miserable of all creatures: then they complained againe to Jupiter for redresse, but it was then too late: for they which could not be content with their freedome, must now of necessity suffer in thraldome.

Thus I feared it might happen with us, and thus I forrowed for your Majestie, although you little respect my grieving: I know that ambition of the Beare, and his tyranny is so infinite great, that should the government come into his hands, (as heaven forbid) the whole Common-wealth will be destroyed: Besides, I know your Majesty of so royall and Princely birth, so mighty, so gracious, and so mercifull, that it had beene a damnable exchange to have seen a tauenous Beare sit in the throne of the royall Lyon, for there is in the Beare and in his generation more prodigall lasciuiousnesse and inconstancie, then in any Beast whatsoeuer. But to proceede, from this sorrow, I began to meditate how I might undoe my fathers false and wicked conspiracies, who sought to bring a base traytor and a slaue into the throne Imperiall: for I well perceiued as long as he held the treasure, there was a possibility of deposing your Majesty, and this troubled my thought exceedingly, so that I laboured how I might finde out where my

Queene, and others of her tenderneſſe of heart, and to bring his enemies into diſgrace and ſcandall, wherein the Foxe ſheweth, that he which will ſlaunder, or will have any untruth beleeved: muſt firſt ſtrengthen his opinion with pitty, then get beliefe, and laſtly exerciſe his miſchiefe, againſt all which a wiſe man will ſhut his eares as the Lion did: If he be not ouer-tempted by thoſe he loues, as the Lion was by the Queene, and his own couetouſneſſe in deſiring that infinite treaſure, then which there is nothing drawes a man ſooner to the beliefe of un-

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truth and of falshood : for what a man desires, that his owne desire will make him credit, & where such credit is given there commonly the wicked escape from punishment, as hereit fell out with the Fox.

my fathers treasure was hid, and to that end I watcht and attended night and day in the Woods, in the Bushes, and in



the open fields : nay, in all places whereso ever my father laid his eyes, there was I ever watching and attending. Now it hapned on a time as I was laid downe flat on the ground, I saw

saw my father come running out of a hole, and assone as hee was come out, hee gazed round about him, to see if any discovered him: then seeing the coast cleare, he stopped the hole with sand, and made it so even, smooth, and plaine, that no curious eye could discerne a difference twixt it and the other earth: and where the print of his foot remained, that with his tayle he stroked over, and with his mouth so smoothed, that no man might perceive it: and indeed that and many other subtilties I learned of him there at that instant: when he had thus finished, away he went towards the village about his private affaires: then went I presently towards the hole, and notwithstanding all his subtily, I quickly found it out, then entred I the Cave, where I found that innumerable quantity of treasure, which cannot be expressed: which found, I tooke Ermelin my wife to helpe me, and we ceast not day nor night with infinite great toyle and labour, to carry and convay away this treasure to another place, much more convenient for us, where we laid it safe from the search of any creature. Now during the time that my wife and I were thus imployed, my father was in consultation with the rest of the traitors, about the death of the King: in which consultation it was concluded, that Isegrim the Wolfe should travaile over all the kingdome, and promise to all Beasts that would take wages, and acknowledge Bruine for their Soveraigne, and defend his title, a full yeares pay before hand. And in this journey my father accompanied him, carrying letters Patents signed to that purpose, little suspecting that he was rob'd of the wealth which should supply his treason: When this negotiation was finished betweene Elve and Soame, and a world of valiant Souldiers raised against the beginning of the next spring: then they returned to Bruine and his consorts, to whom they declared the many perils they had escaped in the Dukedome of Saxony, where they were pursued by Huntsmen and Hounds, so as they hardly escaped with life: after these relations they thewed Bruine their master-coats, which pleased him exceeding much, for there was of Isegrims lineage about twelve hundred sworne to the action, besides the Beares owne kinred,

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the Foxes, the Cats, and the Dassens, all which would be in readinesse upon an houres warning. All this I found out (I praise Heaven) by perfit intelligence: Now things being brought to this perfection, my father went to his cave of treasure: but when he found it open, spoild and ransackt, it is not in mee to expresse the infinite agony and sorrow he fell into, that griefe converting to madnesse, and madnesse to desperation: suddainly he went to the next Tree and hang'd himselfe.

Thus by my Art onely was the Treason of Bruine defeated, for which I now suffer: from hence sprang all misfortune, as thus: These foule traytors Bruine and Isegrim, being of the Kings privatest Counsaile, and sitting in high and great Authority, tread upon me poore Reynard and worke my disgrace: notwithstanding for your Majesties sake, I have lost my naturall Father. O my dread Lord, what is he, or who can render you a better affection, thus to lose himselfe to save you? The King and Queen having great hope to get this inestimable treasure from Reynard, took him from the Gibbet, and intreated him to unfold where this great treasure was. But the Fox repli'd, O my Lord, shall I make mine enemies my heyres? shall these Traytors which take away my life, and would devour yours, be possest of the good I injoy? No, that's a madnesse, I will never dye guilty of. Then said the Queen, feare not Reynard, the King shall save your life and grant you pardon, and you shall henceforth sweare Faith and true allegiance to his majesty. The Fox answered: Dearest Madam, if the King out of his Royall nature will give credit to my truth, and forgive my former offences, there was never King so rich as I will make him. Then the King staying the Queene, said: Madam, will you believe the Fox? know you not that it is his naturall quality to lye, steale and deceive? The Queen answered, My deare Lord, now you may boldly believe him, for howsoever in his prosperity he was full of errors, yet now you may see he is changed: why he spareth not to accuse his owne Father, nay Grimbard his dearest Nephew and kinsman, had he dissembled, he might

have

haue layd his imputations on other Beasts, and not on those he loueth most intirely. Well Madam (said the King) you shall at this time rule me, and all the offences of the Fox I will clearly pardon: yet with this protestation, That if euer againe hée offend in the smallest crime whatsoeuer, that not onely himselfe, but his whole generation I will vtterly roote out of my Dominions. The Foxe looked sadly when the King spake thus (but was inwardly most infinitely glad at his heart) and said, My dread Lord, it were a huge shame in me, should I speake any vntruthes in this great presence. Then the King taking a strawe from the ground, pardoned the Fox of all his trespasses which either hée or his Father had euer commited: If the Fox now began to smile, it was no wonder, the sweetenesse of life required it: yet he fell downe before the King and Quéene, and humbly thanked them for mercy, protesting that for that fauour he would make them the richest Princes in the world. And at these words the Fox tooke up a straw, and proffered it to the King, and said to him: My dread Lord, I beséech your Maiestie receiue this pledge as a surrender vnto your Maiestie, of all the Treasure that the great King Ermerick was master of, with which I frély infeoffe you, out of my mére voluntary and fréemotion. At these words the King receiued the Straw, and smiling, gaue the Fox great thankes for the same. But the Fox laughed outright to thinke of the abuse: from that day forward no mans counsaile prevailed with the King as the Foxes. which the Fox séeing; said to the King: My gracious Lord, you shall vnderstand, that at the West side of Flaunders, there standeth a Wood called Hulstreloe, néere which runneth a River named Crekenpit, this is a Wildernesse so vast and vnpassable, that hardly in all the yeare there commeth either man or Woman in the same. In it I haue hid this Treasure, whither I would haue your Maiesty and the Quéene to goe, for I know none but your selues whom I dare trust in so great designe: and when your Highnes comes thither, you shall finde two Birchin trées growing by the Pit, into which you shall enter, and there you shall finde the Treasure,

which

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which consisteth of Coyne, rich Jewels, and the wealthy Crowne which King Ermericke wore With which Crowne, Bruine the Beare should have bene Crowned, if his treason had succeeded according to his determination: there shall you see also many rich and costly precious stones, of which when you are possest, then remember the love of your servant Reynard. The King answered, Sir Reynard, you must your selfe helpe me to digge for this Treasure, for else I shall never find it. I have heard named Paris, London, Acon, and Cullen, but Crekenpit I never heard of, therefore I feare you dissemble. The Fox blushed at those words, yet with a bold countenance hee said: Is your Majesty so doubtfull of my Faith? nay then I will approve my words by publike testimony: And with that he called forth Kyward the Hare, from amongst the rest of the Beasts, and commanded him to come before the King, charging him upon his Faith and Allegiance which he bore to the King and Quéene, to answer truely to such questions as he should aske him: The Hare answered, I will speake truth in all things, though I were sure to dye for the same. Then the Fox said: Know you not where Crekenpit standeth? Yes said the Hare, I have knowne it any time this dozen yéeres, it standeth in a Wood called Hustenloe, upon a vast and wilde Wildernes, where I have endured much torment both of hunger and colde: Besides, it was there where Father Simony the Fryer made false Coyne, with which he supported himselfe and his fellowes. Yet that was before I and Ring the Hound became companions. Well, said the Fox, you have spoke sufficiently: goe to your place againe: so away went the Hare. Then said the Fox, My soveraigne Lord the King, what say you now to my relation, am I worthy your belefe or no? the King said, Yes Reynard, and I beseech thée excuse my Jealousie, it was my ignorance which bid thée evill: therefore forthwith make preparation that we may goe to this Pit where the Treasure lyeth. The Fox answered: Alas my Lord, doe you imagine that I would faine goe with you: If it were so that I might goe without your dishonour, which I cannot doe. For you shall understand

ſtand, (though it bée my diſgrace) that when Iſegrim the Wolfe in the Devils name, would néeds grow religious and turne a Monke: that then the permiſſion of meate which was for fiue Monks, was too little for him alone. Whereupon hée complaines ſo pittifully unto mée, that I commiſerating his caſe (being my Kinſman) gaue him counſaile to runne away, which he did: Whereupon I ſtand accurſed, and excommunicated under the Popes ſentence: and am determined to morrow aſcope as the Sunne riſeth, to take my way towards Rome to be abſolued, and from Rome I intend to croſſe the Seas to the Holy-land, and will neuer returne againe to my native Country, till I haue done ſo much good, and ſatisfied for my ſinnes, that I may with honour and reputation attend on your Highnes perſon. The King hearing this, ſaid: Since you ſtand accurſed in the cenſures of the Church, I may not haue you about me, and therefore I will at this time take Kyward the Hare, and ſome other with mée to Crekenpit: and only command you Reynard, as you reſpect my fauour, to cleare your ſelfe of his foule curſe. My Lord (ſaid the Fore) it is the onely reaſon of my going to Rome, neither will I reſt night nor day, till I haue gotten a full abſolution: the courſe you take is good (ſaid the King) goe on and proſper in your intent and purpoſe.

CHAP. 13.

How *Reynard* the Foxe was honoured of all Beaſts by the kings commandement.

As ſoone as this conference was ended, the royall King mounted upon an high Throne made in manner of a ſcaffold, made of faire ſquared Stone, and then commaunded a generall ſilence amongſt all his Subiects, and that euery one ſhould take his place according to his Birth, or dignity in Office, onely the Fore was placed betweene the King and the Queene. Then ſaid the King: Heare all you Noblemen, Knights, Gentlemen, and others of inferiour quality: This Reynard one of the chiefe and ſupreme Officers of my

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housholo, whose offences had brought him to the least reckoning of his life, as being in the hands of the Law and Justice:



hath this day in requitall of those Injuries, done that Noble and worthy service to the State, that both my selfe and my Queene, stand bound to render him our best grace and favor.

There-

Therefore knowe, that for divers things best knowne unto our selves, wee have freely given pardon to all his offences, and restored backe to him whatsoever to us was confiscate: therefore henceforth I command all of you, upon the paine and hazard of your dearest lives, that you fayle not from this day forward to doe all reverence and honour not onely to Reynard himselfe, but also to his Wife and Children: whensoever or wheresoever you shall meete them, whether by night or by day: not that any one hereafter be so audacious, as to trouble mine eares with any more complaints of him: for his wickednesse he hath cast behinde him, and will no more be guilty of wrong doing: which to effect the better, to morrow very early hee taketh his Journey towards Rome, where from the Pope he will purchase a free Pardon and Indulgence for all his offences, and then on Pilgrimage to the Holy land. This speech when Tisellin the Raven heard, he flew to Bruine Isegrim and Tybert, and said: Wretched creatures how are your fortunes changed, or how can you endure to heare these tydings: why Reynard is now a Courtier, a Counsailer, nay the prime Favorite: his offences are forgiven, and you are all betray'de, and sold unto bondage. Isegrim answered, It is impossible Tisellin, nor can such a thing be suffered: doe not deceive your selves (said the Raven) for it is as true as that now I speake it. Then went the Wolfe and the Beare to the King: but the Cat stay'd and was so sore affrighted with the newes, that to purchase the Fores friendship againe, she would not onely have forgiven the evills received, but willingly have runne into a second hazard. But now Isegrim with great Majesty and pride tracing over the Fields, came before the King and Queene: and with most bitter and cruell words, envyed against the Fox in such a passionate and impudent manner, that the King being infinitely moved with displeasure, caused the Wolfe and the Beare to be presently arrested upon high treason: Which suddenly was done with all violence and fury, and they were bound hand & foot so fast, that they could neither stir nor move from the place where they were couched. Now when the Fox

The Moral.

By this Honour done to the Fox, you may see, that when policy and wisedome get the upper hand of their enemies, it never resteth till it maketh knowne to the world the greatnesse of their Conquest, both to expresse their ambition, as also to extenuate their crimes, and keep their foes in awe with the goodly showes of new grace and favour.

By the complaint of the Raven, is shewed the jealousie and feare of the weaker sort and how in their troubles they fly to the Heads of faction, and stirre them (with their owne safeties) to prevent evils.

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By the Wolfe and the Beares commitment, is shewed, that when men complaine in unseasonable times, they ever runne themselves into most apparant and dangerous mischiefes,

had thus inthralled and intangled them, hée so laboured with the Quéene, that he got leave to have so much of the Beares skinne, as would make him a large Scrip for his Journey:



Which granted: hée wanted nothing but a strong paire of shoes to defend his feete from the stones in his travaile:

Where-

Whereupon hée said to the Quéene. Madam, I am your Pilgrim, and if it would please your Majesty but to take it into your consideration, you shall finde that Sir Isegrim hath a payre of excellent long lasting ones, which would you vouchsafe to bestow upon mée, I should pray for your Majesties soule in all my travaile, above any charitable devotion. Also mine Aunt dame Arsewind, hath other two Shoes, which would your Majesty bestow upon me, I should be most infinitely bound to you, nor should you doe to her any wrong, because she goes seldom abroade. The Quéene replyed, Reynard, I cannot perceive how you can want such shoes, for your journey is full of labour and difficulty, both in respect of the stony mountaines and the gravelly wayes, and therefore you shall have (though it touch their life never so nérely) from each of them a paire of Shoes to accomplish and finish your journey.

CHAP. 14.

How *Isegrim* and his wife *Arsewind* had their shooes pluckt off, for *Reynard* to weare to *Rome*.

After the Fox had made this petition, Isegrim was taken, and his Shoes pulled off in most cruell and violent manner, so that all the veines and sinewes lay naked, nor durst the poore massacred Wolfe either complain or resist. After he had béene thus tormented, then dame Arsewind his wife was used in the same manner on her hinder fæt, as her husband was on his fore-féete: which the Fox séeing, said to her in a scornefull manner: Deare Aunt, how much am I bound to you that takes all this paines for my sake? questionlesse you shall be a sharer in my pilgrimage, and take part in the pardon I shall bring from beyond the Seas by the helpe of your Shoes. Then Arsewind (though speech were troublesome to her) said, Well Sir Reynard, you have your will accomplisht, yet heaven (I hope) will requite the misdoer. This shée said, but her husband and the Beare lay mute, for their woundes were grievous unto them: and surely had the Cat béene there

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The Morall.

In the spoyling the Beare of her skinne, and the Wolfe of his shooes, is shewed, both the malice of a revengefull enemie, that never thinkes his Foe weakned enough, till he be utterly ruined, as also the indiscretion of an over-angry nature that cannot stay to give his wrongs advantage, but utters his spleene before hee can either get beliefe or remedy.

By the ceremonies done to the Fox, & the curiosity of the Ram, is shewed, that in cases of indifferency, (where authority hath power to command) for any man to stand upon nice and puritanical termes with his superiors, doth not onely breede

also, he had not escap't some extreme punishment. The next morning very early, Reynard causing his shoes to be well oyled, put them on, and made them as fit to his feete, as they were to the Wolves, and then went to the King and Queene, and said. My dread Lord and Lady, your poore subject boweth before your Majesties, humbly beseeching your Highnesses, to vouchsafe to deliver me my male and my staffe blest, according to the custome due unto Pilgrims.

This said, the King sent for Bellin the Ramme, and commanded him to say solemne Masse before the Fox, and to deliver him his staffe and his male: but the Ramme refused saying, My Lord, I dare not, for he hath confessed he is in the Popes curse: and the King said What of that, have not our Doctors told us, that if a man commit all the sinnes in the world, yet if he repent himselfe, be shriven, doe penance, and walke as the Priest shall instruct him, that all is clearely forgiven him: and hath not Reynard done all this? then answered Bellin, Sir, I am loth to meddle herein, yet if your Majestie will beare me harmeleste against the Bishop of Prendesor (my ordinary) and against the Archdeacon Loosewind, and Rapiamus his Officiall, I will effect your commandement. At this the King grew angry, and said, I scorne to be beholding unto you: but when the Ram saw the King offended, he shooke for feare, and ranne presently to the Altar; and sung Masse, and used many ceremonies over the Fox, who gave little respect unto them, more then the desire he had to enjoy the honour. Now when Bellin the Ram had finished his Orizons, he presently hung about Reynards neck his male: which was made of the Beares skinne, and put into his right foote a Palmers staffe: and thus being furnished of all things, he looked sadly upon the King; as if he had beene loth to depart and fained to weepe (though sorrow and he were never farther asunder) onely his worst griefe was, that all in that presence were not in the same case that the Beare and the Wolfe were: yet he tooke his leave of them, and desired every one to pray for him, as he would pray for them: and then offering to depart (for knowing his owne knavery, he was very desirous to bee gone.)

gone.) The King said, Sir Reynard, I am sorry we must part thus suddenly: then said the Fox, There is no remedy my Lord, nor ought I be slow in so devout an action. When the King tooke leave, and commanded all that were about him (but the Beare and the Wolfe) to attend Reynard some part of his journey. O hee that had seene how gallant and personable Reynard was, and how well his staffe and his male became him: as also how fit his shoes were for his feet, it could not have chosen but have stirred in him very much laughter: yet the Fox carried himselfe outwardly very demurely, how ever inwardly he smiled at the abuses hee had cast amongst them, especially to see his enemies, now his attendaunts, and the King, whom he had most palpably wronged with false lyes, to be ayding to all his vain desires, did accompany him also, as if he had beene his companion. But the Fox being now onward his way, he said to the King, I beseech your Majesty trouble your selfe no further, but in respect of your ease, and the danger might happen to your royall person, for you have arested two capitall traytors, who if in your absence they should get at liberty, the danger were infinite, which might insue thereon. And this said, he stood upon his hinder feete, and entreated the beasts that were in his company, and would be partakers of his pardon, that they would pray for him: which done, he departed from the King with an exceeding sad and heavy countenance: Then turning to Kyward the Hare, and Bellin the Ram, he said with a smiling countenance: my best friends, shall we part thus soone? I know your lodes will not leave me yet: with you two I was never offended, and your conversations are agreeable to my nature: for you are milde, lobing and curteous, religious, and full of wise counsaile, even such as my selfe was when I was first a Recluse: if you have a few grene leaves, or a little grasse, you are well content, as with all the bread and flesh in the world, and you are temperate and modest: and thus with a world of such like flattering words he entised these two, that they were content to goe along with him.

reprehension but punishment.

By the Foxes Hypocrisie, is seene the dissimulation of worldly men, and how to effect their mischiefe to the full height, they ever put on a most false cloake of Religion.

By the generall attendance of all the Beasts on the Fox, is shewed, the flattery and baseneſſe of many people that never looke how good a man is, but how great, and that favour and countenance, is ever enough to command at their services.

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CHAP. 15.

How *Kyward* the Hare was slaine by *Reynard* the Fox, and sent by the Ram to the King.

THus marched these three together, and when Reynard was come to the gates of his stone house, he said to Bellin, Cousin, I will intreate you to stay here without a little, whilst I and Kyward goe in, for I would have him a witnesse to some private passages betwixt me and my wife. Bellin was well content, and so the Fox and the Hare went into Malepardus, where they found dame Ermelin lying on the ground with her younglings about her, who had sorrowed excedingly for the losse and danger of her husband: but when she saw his returne, her joy was ten times doubled: But beholding his male, his staffe and his shoes, she grew into great admiration, and said, Deare husband, how have you fared? to whom he delivered from point to poynt, all that had passed with him at the Kings Court, as well his danger as release, and that now hee was to goe a pilgrimage, having left Bruine and Isegrim two pledges for him till his returne: as for Kyward, hee said, the King had bestowed him upon them, to doe with him what they pleased, affirming, that Kyward was the first that had complained of him, for which questionlesse he vowed to be sharply revenged. When Kyward heard these words, hee was much apaled, and would faine have fled away, but hee could not: for the Fox had got betweene him and the gate: who presently seaz'd the Hare by the neck: at which the Hare cryed unto Bellin for helpe, but could not be heard, for the Fox in a trice had torne out his throat: which done, he, his wife and young ones feasted therewith merrily, eating the flesh, and drinking blood to the Kings health: but Ermelin growing suspitious, said, I feare, Reynard, you mock me: as you love me, tell me how you sped at the Court. Then he told her how spitefully hee had flattered the King and Queene, and abused them with a fained peece of treasure that was not, in so much, that he knew when it should come to be revealed,

the

the King would ſtoke all the meanes hée could to deſtroy him. And therefore Wife ſaid he, there is no remedy but wee muſt ſteale from hence, into ſome other Foreſt where wée may



liue in better ſafety, and in a place more fruitfull, where we ſhall haue all the delicate meats that can be wiſht for, cleere ſprings,

The Morall.

By the killing of the Hare, is ſhewed that whereas men out of the lightneſſe and eaſineſſe of their beliefe, doe giue credit to the enticements of their Aduerſaries or newreconciled Friends, that euermoreſome inevitable miſchiefe doth ſtil follow ſuch folly and improvidence.

Alſo how eaſily a malicious man can finde cauſe of quarrell with ſuch as are too weakfor them, or as eye-ſores ſtand between them and the end of their purpoſes, or are able to reveale and hinder their proiects.

By the Ram's carrying the Hares head to the Lyon, and taking upon him to indite the letters.

which he saw not, is discouered, that ever such vaine glorious pick-purses of other qualities, doe ever carry their owne shames and disreputations, & when they looke for most Honour or renowne, they reape nothing but misetie, scorne, and disgraces.

springs, fresh rivers, coole shades, and wholsome ayre: heere I know is no abiding: and now I have gotten my thumbe out of the Kings mouth, I will no more come within the danger of his talons. Yet (said Ermelin) I have no fancy to goe from hence, to a place where I am utterly unacquainted: heere wee possesse all that we desire, and you are a Lord ouer all that lives about you, and it is but an indiscreet hazard to change a certaine good for a hoped contentment: Besides, we are here safe enough, and should the King besiege us never so straightly, yet have wee so many passages and by-holes, that hee can neither cut from us relefe nor liberty. O what reason have wee then to flie beyond Seas? but you have sworn it, that's my veration. May Dame (said the Fox) grieve not at that: the more forsworne, the lesse forlorne: Besides I have heard some say, that a forc't Oath is no oath, nor doe I make account that this Pilgrimage will availe mee a rush. And therefore I am resolved, and will not start from hence, but follow thy counsaile: If the King doe hunt after mee, I will guard my selfe as well as I am able, and against his power apply my policy: so that being forc'd to open my sacke, let him not blame mee if he catch hurt by his owne fury.

All this while stood Bellin the Ramme at the gate, and grew exceeding angry both against the Fox and the Hare, that they made him waite so long: and therefore called out aloude, for Reynard to come away: Which when Reynard heard, hee went forth and said softly to the Ram. Good Bellin be not offended: for Kyward is in earnest conference with his dearest Aunt, and entreated me to say unto you, that if you would please to walke before, he would speedily overtake you, for hee is light of foote, and spedier then you: nor will his Aunt part with him thus suddenly, for shee and her Children are much perplext at my departure. I but (quoth Bellin) mee thought I heard Kyward cry for helpe. How, cry for helpe? can you imagine hee shall receive hurt in my house? farre be such a thought from you: but I will tell you the reason: Assoone as wee were come into my house, and that Ermelin my

Wife

Wife understood of my pilgrimage, presently she fell downe in a swoone: which when Kyward saw, he cryed alouds, O Bellin come helpe my Aunt, she dyes, she dyes: Then said the Ram, In sadnesse I mistooke the cry, and thought the Hare had beene in danger. It was your too much care of him, said the Fore, but before he should have any injury in my house, I would leave to respect either Wife or Children. But letting this discourse passe, you remember Bellin, that yesterday the King and his Counsaile commanded mee, that before I departed from the Land, I should send unto him two Letters, which I have made ready, and will intreat you my dearest Cousin to beare them to his Majesty. The Ram answered, I would willingly doe you the service, if there be nothing but honourable matter contained in your Letters: but I am unprovided of any thing to carry them in. The Fore said, that is provided for you already, for you shall have my male which you may conveniently hang about your neck: I know they will be thankfully received of his Majesty, for they containe matter of great importance. Then Bellin promised to carry them: So the Fox returned into his house, and tooke the male, and put therein the head of Kyward, and brought it to the Ram, and gave him a great charge not to looke therein, till it was presented to the King, as he did expect the Kings favour: and that he might further indeare himselfe with his Majestie, hee bade the Ram take upon him the inditing of the Letters, which will be so pleasing to the King, that questionlesse he will powre upon you many favours.

The Ramme was exceeding glad of this advice, and thanked the Fox, saying: That the favours he did him should not bee unrequited; and I know it will be much to mine honour, when the King shall thinke I am able to indite with so great perfection: for I know there be many in these dayes as ignorant as my selfe, that are risen to high promotion, onely by taking upon them the worth of other mens Labours: And therefore why may not I runne the same course also? Yet I pray you Reynard further advise mee: Is it meete that I take Kyward the Hare along with mee? O by no meanes (said the

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For let him come after you, for I know his Aunt will not yet part with him. Beſides, I have other ſecret things to impart to him, which may not yet be revealed. This ſaid, Bellin tooke leave of the Fox and went towards the Court, in which Journey hée made ſuch ſpéed, that he came thither before noone: where he found the King, in his Palace ſitting amongſt the Nobility.



The

The King wondred when he saw the Kimme come in with the male which was made of the Beares skinne, and said: Whence commest thou Bellin, and where is the Fox, that you have that male about you? Bellin answered: My dread Lord, I attend the noble Fore to his house, where after some repose, hée desired me to beare certaine Letters to your Majesty of infinite great importance, to which I easily consented. Whereupon hée delivered mée the Letters inclosed in this male, which Letters my selfe had formerly Indyted, and I doubt not but are such as will give your Highnes both contentment and satisfaction. Presently he commanded the Letters to be delivered to Bocart his Secretary, who was an excellent Linguist and understood all Languages: that hée might read them publikely, so hée and Tybert the Cat tooke the male from Bellins necke, and opening the same, in stead of Letters they drew out the Head of Kyward the Hare: at which being amazed they said: Woe and alas, what Letters call you these? Beléeve it, my dread Lord, héere is nothing but the head of poore murthered Kyward. Which the King séeing (hée said) Alas, how unfortunate was I to beléeve the trayterous Fox: And with that being oppresst with anger, griefe and shame: hée held downe his head for a good space, and so did the Quéene also: but in the end shaking of his curled locks, hée groaned out such a dreadfull noyse, that all the Beasts of the Forrest did tremble to heare it. Then spake Sir Firapell the Lybard, who was the Kings néerest kinsman, and said: Why is your Majesty thus vexed in heart: this sorrow might serve for the Quéenes Funerall, I doe beséech you allwage your anguish: are not you King and master of this Country, and are not all things subject to your power? The King replyed, Cousin, this is a mischiefe beyond indurance: I am betrayed by a base villaine, and a traytor, and have béene made to wrong and abuse my best friends and subjects, even those of my blood, and néerest counsell, I meane the stout Bruine, and valiant Isegrim, whose wrongs speak loude to my dishonour, yet in my selfe I found an unwillingnesse thereto, onely my Quéenes pitty, working upon the ea-



sinelle of my beliefe, hath made mée guilty of that which will evermore grieve mée. Why (said the Lyard) what of all this? you are above your injuries, and with one smile can salve the greatest wound that can be made in honour, you have power to recompence, and what reputation is it that reward will not salwer? as for the Beare which lost his skin, the Wolf and his wife dame Arsewind, that lost their shoes, you may in recompence (since Bellin hath confest himselfe a party in this foule murther) bestow him and his substance on the parties grieved: as for Reynard, we will all goe & besiege his Castle: and having arrested his person, hang him up by the heels of Armes without further triall.

CHAP. 16.

How *Bellin* the Ramme, and his linage, were given to the Beare and the wolfe.

TO this motion of the Lyard the King consented, so that Firapell forthwith went to the prison, where the Beare and

and the Wolfe were, and sits in my Bosom, I bring a free and generall pardon from the King, with his love, and a recognition of your injuries: which to recompence in some large



manner out of his Princely bounty, he is pleased to bestow upon you both Bellin the Ram and his whole generation, with

what.

Reynard the Fox

whatsoever they possesse, and is now confiscate to his Majesty, to hold from henceforth to you and yours till domes day: with full commission to slay, kill, and devoure them wheresoever you finde them, We it in Woods, Fields, or Mountaines. And also the King granteth unto you full power to hunt, kill or wound Reynard the Fox, wheresoever you find him or any of his lineage or generation: and of this great priviledge you shall receive letters Patents at your pleasure, with onely a reservation of your fealty and homage to be due to his Majesty, which I advise you to accept, for it will redound much to your honours. Thus was the peace made betweene the King and these Nobles by the Lybard, and Bellin the Ramme was forthwith slaine by them, and all these Priviledges doth the Wolfe hold to this houre, nor could ever any reconcilement bee made betweene them and the Rams kindred. When this peace was thus finished, the King for joy thereof, proclaimed a feast to be held for twelve dayes after, which was done with all solemnity.

To this feast came all manner of wilde Beasts, for it was universally knowne through the whole Kingdome, nor was there wanting any delight or pleasure that could be imagined, as musicke, dancing, masking, and all Princely recreations: as for severall meats, they were in that abundance, that the Court seemed a store-house which could not be emptied. Also to this feast resorted abundance of feathered Fowle, and all other Creatures that held peace with his Majesty, and no one missing but the Fox onely. Now after this feast had thus continued in all pompe the space of eight dayes: about high noone came Laprell the Coney before the King and Queene, as they sat at dinner, and with a heavy and lamentable voyce said: My gracious and great Lord, have pitty upon my misery, and attend my complaint, which is of great violence, force and murther, which Reynard the Fox would yesterday have committed against mee: as I passed by the Castle of Mallepardus, where standing without his gates, attired like a Pilgrime, I supposing to passe peaceably by him towards my nest, hee crost my way, saying his Beads so devoutly that I

saluted

saluted him: but he returning no answer, stretcht forth his right foote, and gaue me such a blow on the neck betweene the



head and shoulders, that I imagined my head had beene stricken from my body: but yet so much memory was left me that I leapt from his claives, though most grieuously hurt and wounded

The Morall.

By the giuing of Bellin vnto his enemies, is shewed that when simple men giue themselues to pride and vaine glory, they are ouertaken by their enemies, & made slaues to shame and destruction.

By the complaint of the Cony, is shewed that when the weake will beleeue the faire shewes of the strong and cruell, and so commit their safeties to their enemies mercies, they seldome escape with life, or if they doe by some hidden prouidence, yet it is not without euer some maime either to their bodies or reputations.

The cõplaint of the Rooke, shewes that when the euill man sleepeth or seemeth to haue least power or in-

ten; of blackednes, that when his thoughts are most busied & laborious to destroy the innocent, and the mischiefe is more violent, then when he lyeth most apparant and publisheth him selfe an open enemy, wherefore the simple and innocent ought at such times to bee most fearefull and to keepe the farthest out of his danger.

wounded. At this he grieved extremely, because I lost in him: onely of one of my eares he utterly deprived me, which I beseech your majestie in your royall nature to pitty, and that this bloudy murtherer may not live thus to afflict your poore Subjects. Now whilst the Colley was thus speaking to the King, there came a Dog into the Court Corbant the Cooke, who comming before the King, said: Great King, I beseech you vouchsafe to heare me, and pitty the complaint I shall utter: so it is, that I went this morning with Sharbeacke my wife to recreate our selves on the Heath, and there was found Reynard the Fox laid on the ground like a dead carkasse, his eyes staring, his tongue lolling out of his mouth, like a dead Hound, so that we wondring at his strange plight, began to feele and touch his body, but found no life therein at all: then went my wife (poore carefull soule) and laid her head to his mouth, to see if he drew any breath, which she had no sooner done, but the foule murtherer awaiting his time, snatcht her head into his mouth, and bit it quite off. At that I shrieked out and cried: Woe is me, what misfortunes are these? but presently the murtherer start up and leapt at me with such a bloudy intent, that with much trembling and anguish I was faine to flie up to a tree, where I saw him devoure up my wife in such terrible manner, that the very thought is death to me in the repeating.

This massacre finished, the murtherer departed, and I went to the place, and gathered the feathers of my lost wife, which here I humbly present before your Majestie, beseeching you to doe me justice, and in such manner to revenge mine injurie, that the world may speake fame of your great excellence, for thus to suffer your Lawes, Protections and safe Conducts to be violated and broken, will be such disreputation and scandall to your Crowne and Dignity, that your very neighbours and Colleagues will note and point at your remissenesse: besides the sufferance of the evill will make you guilty of the trespasses which shall arise from such sufferance; But to your great consideration I leave it: since I know your Majesties own goodnes will make you carefull of your honour & royalty.

CHAP.

CHAP. 17.

How the King was angry at these Complaints, make counsaile for reuenge, and how Reynard was forewarned by Grimbert the Brocke.

THe royall King was much moued with anger, when he heard these Complaints both of the Gray and the Rooke, so that his eyes sparkled fire, and the beames of Maiesty, his countenance was dreadfull and cruell to looke on, and the whole Court trembled to behold him. In the end he said: By my Crowne and the truth I ever maze reverence and owe unto the Queene my wife, I will be revenge these outrages committed against my Crowne and Dignity, that Gomes shall adoze me, and the wicked shall die with the remembrance: his falshood and flattery shall no moze get beliefe in mee.

Is this his journey to Rome and to the Holy land? are these the fruites of his male, his staffe, and other ozaments becomming a devout Pilgrim? well, he shall find the reward of his Treasons: but it was not my beliefe, but the perswasion of my Queene, nozam I the first that hath beene deceived by that soft gender, since many great spirits have fallen through their Inticements. And this said: He commanded all that were about him, both Noble, worthy and every discreet spirit to assist him with their Counsaile, and to lay him down such sure ground for his reuenge, that his honour and Royaltie might be anew reuived, and every offender made to know and feele the heavie price for their most unjust actions.

Isegrim the Wolfe and Bruine the Beare, hearing the Kings words, were wonderfully well apaid and doubted not but now to gaine their full reuenge against Reynard: yet still they kept silence and spake not a word. Insomuch that the King being much moued with their dumbnesse and noting that none durst freely deliuer their opinions: He began to bend his foreheade: but the Queene after solemne reverence said to the King: Mon Sire, pour Dieu ne croyez mie toutes



choses qu'on vous dira, & ne jurez point legerement. Sir, it is not the part of any excellent wisedome to beleeue or protest in any thing till the matter be made most apparant and pregnant to his knowledge: neither should both his eares, be ingaged to any complaint, but one ouer reserued to entertaine the defence of any accused: For many times the accuser

exceedeth.

The Morall.

The anger of the Lyon at the Foxes trespasses, shewes the disposition of a good Prince, which is ever moved and offended, when his good subjects are injured And the perswasion of the Queene and the Lybard, shewes the true temperance which every Prince should use, when he administreth Iustice.

The moderate, yet biting words of the Wolfe, shewes the cunning malice of a subtill foe, who before such as are of his contrary faction, will conceale the violence of his malice: that so he may gaine a more quieta tention and then mixing his calme words with

eyedeth the accused in iniurie. And therefore Audire alteram partem, to heare the other party, is the act of perfect Iustice: For my owne part howsoever I have erred, yet I have strong ground for my perswasion, and whether Reynard be good or bad, yet it stands with your Excellency not to proceed against him, but by the true forme of your Lawes: for he hath noe power to escape you, but must obey whatsoever your severity can impose upon him. When the Queene had thus spoken, Firapell the Lybard to second her intreaty said: My Lord, the Queene hath spoken graciously, and I see not wherein your Majesty can stray from her Iudgement: Therefore let him take the due triall of your Lawes, and being found guilty of the trespasses whereof he is accused, let him be summoned: and if he appeare not before your feast be ended, to cleere himselfe, or submit to your mercy: then may your highnesse proceed against him as it shall seeme best to your pleasure.

To this speech Isegrim the Wolfe replyed, Sir Firapell, for my owne part, I thinke not any in this assembly will dissent from your counsell, so it may stand with the pleasure of my Lord the King: yet this I dare maintaine, that howsoever Reynard shall cleere himselfe of these and a thousand such like trespasses which shall be brought against him: yet I have that lodged in my bosome, which shall approve he hath forfeited his life: but at this time his absence shall make me silent, onely touching the treasure of which he hath informed his Majestie to lye at Crekenpit in Husterloe, there never came a falser information from the mouth of any creature: for it was a lie made out of malice to wrong me & the Beare, and get himselfe liberty to rob and spoyle all that passe by his house as now he doth: but notwithstanding I hold it mete, that all things be done as shall seeme good to his Majesty or you Sir Firapel: yet this beleeve, that if he had meant to have appeared, he had beene here long since, for he had summons given him by the Kings Messenger.

To this the King answered, I will have no other course of summoning him, but command all that owe me allegeance, or respect mine honour, that forthwith they make themselves ready

bitte promises and doubtfull injuries, doth the utterm st he can to poyson the reputation of him he hateth.

The Brockes going to the Fox, sheweth the office of a true friend, which both giveth warning and advise to them they love, when they see them runne into evill courses.

The Foxes careleſnesse shewes he true nature of a desperate man that when hee hath plunged himselfe into the depth of evill, hath nothing but an audacious countenance, and an impudent shew to make him seeme innocent, yet evermore his hart is pricked with the stinging of his conscience as often as he is alone, which is the

readie for the warre: and at the end of five dayes appeare before me with their Bowes, Gunnes, Bumbards, Pikes, and Halbards: some on horse-backe, some on foote, for I will besiege Mallepardus instantly, and destroy Reynard and his generation from the earth for ever: this if any dislike, let him turne his backe, that I may know him for mine enemie. And they all cried with one voice, we are ready to attend your Majestie. When Grimbard the Brocke heard this determination, he grew exceeding sorry (though this sorrow was desperate) and stealing from the rest of the company, he ranne with all speede possible to Mallepardus, neither sparing bush nor bryer, pale nor paile: and as he went he said to himselfe. Alas my deare Uncle Reynard, into what hazards art thou drawne, having but one step betwixt thee and thy death, or at the best thine everlasting banishment: well may I grieve for thee, since thou art the top and honour of my house, art wise and politicke, and a friend to thy friends, when they stand in need of thy counsell, for with thy sweet language thou canst inchant all creatures, but all is now hopelesse. With such manner of lamentations as these, came Grimbard unto Mallepardus, and found his Uncle Reynard stanting at the Castle gate, who had newly gotten two young Pigeons as they came creeping out of their nest to try how they could learne to fly. But now beholding his Nephew Grimbard, he staid and said, Welcome my best beloved Nephew, the onely bee I esteeme above all my kindred: Surely you have runne exceeding fast, for you sweate wonderfully; what newes men, how runnes the squares at the Court? Said Grimbard, very ill with you, for you have forfeited both your life, honour and estate. The King is up in armes against you with horse-men, footemen, and souldiers innumerable: besides, Isegrim and Bruine are now in more favour with his Majestie, then I am with you, therefore it is high time you have great care of your selfe, for their envy hath touched you to the quicke, they have informed against you, that you are a theefe and a murtherer: and to second their informations, Laprell the Coney, and Corbrant the Rooke, have made haynous

complaints

complaints against you, so that but your shameful death, torment of every offender.
I see no escape or freedome.



Tush (said the Fox) my deare Nephew, if this be the worst, let no sorrow affright you: but let us be cheerefull and pleasant together, for though the King and all the Court would

Reynard the Fox

would sweare my death yet will I be exalted above them all: well may they prate and jangle, and tire themselves with their counsels: but without the help of my wit and policy, neither can the Court of Commonwealth have any long continuance. Come then my best Nephew, let us enter into my Castle and feast. I have here a paire of fat Pigeons for you which are meate of pure and light digestion. I lobe not any thing better, they are young and tender, and may be almost swallowed whole, for their bones are little other then blood, yet come I say, my wife Ermelin will receive you kindly: but by all meanes respect not to her of any dangers, for she is of soft and melting temper, and it might strike her into sodaine sickneſſe, for women are apt to entertaine griefe. When we have feasted, I will then to morrow early in the morning goe with you to the Court, and if I can but attaine speech with the King, I shall gaine some hope enough, onely this I desire (deare Nephew) at your hands, that you will stand to me, as one friend and kinsman ought to doe to another. Doubt me not (said Grimbard) for both my life & goods shall be at your service. I thanke you Nephew (said the Fox) and you shall not find me ingratefull. Sir (said the Wolfe) be bold of this, that you shall come and make your answers before the Lords freely, for none shall dare to arrest or hold you for that favour the Queene and the Lybard have purchast from the King. I am glad of that (said the Fox) nor care I then a haire for their worſt malice. And this said, they went into Mallepardus, and found Ermelin sitting amongst her younglings, who presently arose and received the Wolfe with all reverence, and he on the other part saluted her and her children with all courteſie: presently the two Pigeons were made ready, and they supped together, each taking their part, though none had so much as they desired: then said the Fox, Nephew how like you my children Roſſel and Remardine? I hope they will doe honour to our family, they are towardly I assure you, for the one lately caught a Chicken, and the other hath killed a Pullet: they are also good Duckers, and can both decipher the Lapwing and the Mallard: I tell you true, I dare already adventure

adventure them farre, onely I meane first to instruct them how to escape the Gins, and to prevent both the Huntsman and his hounds: they are of the right haire Nephew, and like me, both in countenance and quality, they play grinning, intangle soothing, and kill smiling: this is the true nature of the Fox, and in this they are perfect, which is great pride unto me.

CHAP. 18.

How the Fox repenting his sinnes, doth make his confession and is absolved by the Brocke.

VNCLE, said the Brocke, you may be proud that you have such toward children, and rejoyce because they are of my blood. I thanke you nephew, (said the Fox) but I know your journey hath made you weary, therefore you shall goe to your rest: to which the Brocke consented, so they laid them downe upon fresh litter, and all kept soundly, but the Fox, whose heart was heavy with sorrow, lay studying how he might best excuse himselfe before the King. But assoone as the morning began to rise from the tops of the Mountaines, he arose and went with Grimbard towards the Court, yet before he went, he tooke leave of his wife and children, and said, Thinke not mine absence long (deare wife and children) for I must goe to the Court with my Cousin Grimbard, and though my stay be more then ordinary, yet take no affright thereat, and what tidings soever you heare, yet comfort all things for the best, and be carefull of your selues, and keepe my Castle close and well guarded: as for my selfe, doubt not but I will defeate all mine enemies. Alas Reynard (said his wife) what moves you to take this sudden journey? the last time you were at the Court, you know what dangers you escaped, and you vowed never to see it againe. Will you now runne a second hazard? Dame (said the Fox) the occurrents of the world are divers and uncertaine, and we are subject to the strokes of Fortune: but rest you content, there is necessity that I goe, and I hope my stay shall not be above five dayes

Reynard the Fox

at the uttermoſt, and ſo imbracing his wife and children, hee tooke leave and departed: and as they ſourneyed ouer the Heath, Reynard ſaid to the Brocke: Nephew, ſince I was laſt ſhriuen, I haue committed many ſinnes, therefore I beſeech you let me make before you my confeſſion, that I may paſſe with leſſe trouble through my worſt dangers.



Then

Then he proceeded & said: It is true Nephew, that I made the Beare receive a great wound for the Male which I did cut out of his skinne, and I caused the Wolfe and his wife to



be unpi of their thomes: I appeased the King onely with falsehood, I fained a conspiracie against his Maiesties life by the Beare and the Wolfe, when there was never any such determination:

The Morall.

The Foxes shriving himselfe to the Brock, shewes the Art of all dissemblers, which ever makedevotion their cloake By the buying of the Foale of the Mare is shewed, that when proud men make instruments of wiser then themselvs, and such as affect not their qualities, the service they doe them is ever to bring them to mischiefe, &c. Also when ambition or covetousnesse blindes men, and makes them trust onely in their owne skill and knowledge, that then they are ever sodainly overtaken withone mischiefe or another and made a mocke and scorne to their foes, and

mination: also I reported of great treasure to be hid in Halsterloe, but it was as fabulous as the rest: I slew Kyward, and I betrayed Bellin, I wounded the Coney, and killed Dame Sharpbeake, the Rooks wife. Lastly, I forgot at my last shift one great deceit which I committed, but I will reveale it, and thus it was.

As I went talking with the Wolfe betweene Houthlust and Elverding, we beheld a goodly bay Mare grasing, with a blacke foale by her side, which was exceeding fat and wanton: the Wolfe at that instant was almost dead for hunger, in so much that he intreated me to goe to the Mare, and know if she would sell her foale: I went and demanded the question. The Mare said, she would willingly sell it for money: I then asked the price: and she said, the price was written in her hinder foot, which if I pleased, I might come and reade at my pleasure: but I that well understood her politicke anger, said, It is truth that I cannot reade, neither doe I desire to buy your foale, onely I am a messenger from the Wolfe, who hath a great desire to have it. Then (said the Mare) let him come himselfe, and I will give him satisfaction: Then went I to the Wolfe, and told him what the Mare said, assuring him that if hee pleased, he might have his belly full of the foale, provided he could reade, for the price was written in the Mares hinder foot. Reade (said the Wolfe) what should aile me? I can, Cousin, reade both Latin, French, English, and Dutch, I have studied in Oxford, and argued with many Doctors, I have heard many stately Playes, and sitten in the place of Judgement: I have taken degrees in both the Lawes, nor is there that writing which I cannot decipher: So desiring me to stay for him there, away he went to the Mare, and craved that he might see and reade the price of the foale: to which the Mare consented, and lifting up her hinder foot, which was newly shod with strong iron, and seven sharpe nailes heads, as the Wolfe lookt thereon, she smote him so full upon the forehead, that she threw him over and over, and he lay in a dead swound whilst a man might have ridden a mile and better, which done, away trotted the Mare with her Colt,

and

and left the poore Wolfe bloody and wounded, in so much that he howled like a Dog: then went I to him, and said, Sir Isegrim, deare Uncle, how doe you, have you eaten too much of the Colt? indeed you are unkind, that will give mée no part with you. I went your message honestly, me thinkes you have out-slept your dinner, good Uncle tell mée what was written under the Mares foot, was it in Prose or Rime? indeed I would faine know it: I thinke it was Prickesong, for I heard you sing: nay, you shew your Scholler-ship in all the Arts. such as led them blindfold into the evill.

Alas, Reynard, (alas said the Wolfe) I pray you forbeare to disdaine mée, for I am extremely wounded, and mine anguish is so great, that a heart of flint would pitty mée. The damned Mare on her long legge hath an iron shoe, and I tooke the nailes to have beene letters, on which I looked, she hit me so full on the head that I thinke my scull is cloven. Deare Uncle (said the Fox) is this truth which you tell me? beléeve it, you make mee wonder, why I tooke you for one of the greatest Clarkes in this Kingdome: Well, I perceive the old Proverbe is now made good in you: The greatest Clarks are not the wisest men. Poore men sometimes may outstrip them in judgement, and the reason is, you great Schollers study so much, that you grow dull, in that you so much overlabour. And thus with these mockes and taunts, I brought the Wolfe within a haires breadth to destruction. And now faire Nephew, I have unladed my conscience, and delivered as many of my sins as I can call to my remembrance, wherefore I beseech you let me receive absolution and penance, and then come what chance shall at the Court, I am armed against all dangers. Then Grimbard said, your trespasses are great and hainous, nevertheleste who is dead, must abide dead. And therefore here I freely absolve you, upon assurance of your hearty repentance: onely the contempt you made in sending him Kywards head, and the abuse of so many faire hoods will lye heavy upon you. Why (said the Fox) hée that will live in the world to sée this, heare that, and understand the third, must ever converse with affliction.

No man can touch Honey, but he must licke his fingers. I often feele touches of repentance, but reason and our will are ever in continuall combat, so that I oft stand still as at my wits end and cry out against my sinnes, feeling a detestation of them. But presently the world and her vanities appeare to mee againe: and then I find so many stones and rubs in my way, and the examples of the crafty Prelates, and rich Priests to inchant mee, that I am forthwith taken againe: the world fils mee with covetousnesse and the flesh with wantonnesse, so that losing my good resolutions, I am onely for Hell and wickednesse. I heare their singing, piping, laughing, playing, and all kind of mirth, and I see their words and actions so contrary, that nothing is more incertain and various: from them I learne my lying and from Lords Courts my flattery: for certainly Lords, Ladies, Priests, & Clarkes, use most dissimulation. It is now an offence to tell great men truth: and he that cannot dissemble, cannot live. I have oft heard men speake truth, yet they have still grac'd it with falshood: for untruthes many times happen into discourse unwittingly and without knowledge: yet having a handsome garment, it ever goes for currant. (Deare Nephew) it is now a fashion to lie, flatter, forth, threaten, pray, and curse, and to dos any thing that may keepe the weake in subjection; who doe otherwise, is held foolish: but hee that cannot wimble falshood, in truths kerchiefe, hath neither Art nor cunning: but he that can ode it, and driver errour without stammering, he may doe wonders; he may weare Scarlet, Gray, or Purple: hee shall gaine both by the Lawes spirituall and temporall, and write himselfe conqueror in every designement. There be many that imagine they can lie neatly, but their cunning oft failes them; so that when they thinke to feede of the fat morsels, they slip quite besides their trenchers. Others are blunt and foolish, and for want of method marre all their discourses, but he that can give to his lie a fit and an apt conclusion, can pronounce it without ratling, and make it as truth appeare faire and amiable: That is the man and worthy of admiration. But to speake truth is

no

no cunning, it never makes the Debill laugh: to lie well and with a grace: to lift up wrong above right: to make mountaines and build Castles in the aire: to make men jugglis and looks thorow their fingers, and all for the hope of gaine onely. This, Nephew is an Art beyond expression: yet evermore of the end commeth misery and affliction. I will not deny but sometimes men may jest or lie in small things, for he that will speake all truthes, shall sometimes speake out of season. To play Placebo, may now and then be borne with; for who so speakes alwayes truth, shall finde many rubs in his way: men may erre for need and mend it by counsell, since no trespasse but hath his mercy: nor any wisdome but at some time dulleth. Then (said the Wrocke) Uncle you are so wise you cannot faile in any purpose, and I would grow inamoured of you, your reasons so farre surpasse my understanding, there is no neede of your shrift, for your selfe may both play the Priest and Confessor: you know the world in such sort, that it is impossible for any man to halt before you.

With these and such manner of discourses they held on their journey towards the Court: yet the Fores heart (for all his faire shew) was sad and heavy, yet countenance bewray'd it not: but he past without amazement through all the presse of the Court, even till he came to the presence of the King, and the Wrocke march'd close by his side, saying: Uncle, be not afraide, but be of good cheere, it is courage of whom Fortune is ever enamoured. Then (said the For) Nephew you say true, and your comfort availes me, and so on he went, casting many disdainefull countenances on those hee lik'd not: or as who would say, Here I am: what is it that the proudest of you dare object against mee? he beheld there many of his kin, which he knew loved him not, as the Otter, the Bever, and divers others which I will name hereafter: and many he saw which loved him. Assoone as hee was come in the view of the King, hee fell downe humbly on his knee, and spake as followeth.

Reynard the Fox

CHAP. 19.

How *Reynard* the Fox excused himselfe before the King; and of the Kings answer.

That divine power from whom nothing can be hid, save my Lord the King, and my Lady the Quéene, and give them grace to know who hath right and who hath wrong, for



them

there are many false shewes in the world, and the counte-
nance bewrayeth not the heart: which I wish were openly
revealed, and that every creatures trespasse God written in
his forehead, albeit it cost me the uttermost of my substance,
or that you (my soveraigne Lord) knew me as nearely as my
selfe, and how I dispose my selfe early and late, labouring
in your service. For which cause onely malice makes all
her complaints against me, striving to thrust me out of
your grace and favour. Insomuch that out of my anguish I
must needes cry shame upon them which have so deadly be-
lied me. Nevertheless I know that you my Lord, and so-
veraigne Lady, are so excellent in your Judgement, that you
will not be carried away with falshoods: and therefore I
most humbly beseech your Majesties, to take into your wis-
dome all things according to the right of your Lawes: for it
is Justice I looke for, and desire that he which is found guil-
ty, may feele the waight of his punishment. For believe it,
dread Lord, it shall be knowne before I depart from your
Court who I am, that I cannot flatter, but will shew my
face with an unblemished forehead.

All they that were in the presence, stood amazed
when the Fox spake so boldly. But the King with a stately
countenance said: Reynard, I know you are expert in false-
cies, but words are now too weake to relieve you. I believe
this day will be the last of your glory and disgrace: for me I
will not chide you much, because I intend you shall the pun-
ishment bear the love you doe beare me, you he be shewing to the
Coney and the Wolfe, and your requitall shall be your life
on earth. The ancient saying is, A pot may passe long to the
water, but in the end it comes broken home. And your evills
have so long succeeded, that they will now pay you the wages.
At these words Reynard was stricken into a cold sweate and
with himselfe farre away, yet he bethought himselfe that
now he must bear the brow, what fortune soever came.
Whereupon he said (My soveraigne Lord the King) it is but
Justice that you bear me sufferye my accusations for
my faults may be hallowed then by

gives

gives the accused leave ever to answer. I have with my counsaile done you service in former times, and may no lesse still: I have never started from your Majestie, but walked by your side, when others have gone from your presence: if then mine enemies with their slanders shall prevaile against me, blame me not to complaine. Mine hath beene it was otherwise, and time may bring it to the old course, for the actions of good servants ought not to be forgotten. I see here divers of my kindred and friends which now make no value of me, whom I can approve goe about to deprive you of the best Iewell you possesse. Can your Majestie imagine if I had beene guiltie in the least imagined crime, that I would thus voluntarily have made my appearance even in the teeth of mine enemies? O it had beene too much indiscretion, nor would the liberty I had, beene so easily subjected. But heaven be thanked I know mine innocence, and dare confront my worst enemy. Yet when my kinsman Grimbard first brought me the tidings, I must confesse I was halfe distract with anger, and had I not beene in the censure of his Church, I had appear'd ere they had left complaining, but that detained me. And I wandred with sorrow on the heath, till I met with my Uncle Martin, the Ape, who farre exceedeth any Priest in Pastorall busines, for he hath beene Attorney to the Bishop of Camericke any time this nine yeares: and seeing me in this great agony of heart, he said; Deare Cousin why are you thus heavy in spirit, and why is your countenance dejected? griefe is easie to carry when the burthen is divided amongst friends: For the nature of a true friend is to behold and relieve that, which anguish will not suffer the oppressed to see or suffer. Then I answered him, You say true deare Uncle, and the like is my fortune, for sorrow is without cause laid upon me, and of that I am not guilty, I am accused by those I ranked with my best friends: As namely the Coney, who came yesterday to my house as I was saying Mattins, saying he was travailing towards the Court, but was at that time both hungry & weary: and thereupon requested of me some meate: I willingly consented, took him in and

gave him a couple of Manchets and sixe Butter: for it was on Wednesday, on which day I never eate flesh. Besides it was then a fast, by reason the feast of Whitsontide



was neere. At which time we must have cleansed and prepared hearts, Et vos estote parati. Now when he had almost well

The Morall.

The boldnesse of the Foxes appearance and speech, shewes the impudence of a desperate offender, that having nothing but his owne boldnes to bolster out his cause, still cryes for Iustice and hearing, not so much to excuse himselfe as to accuse others, and by digressions & extravag'nt speech o brig all those into disgrace which are able to testifie anything against him. By the tale of the Apes going for him to Rome, and his threatning the King is shewed the ignorance and sottish blindnesse of the old times, which would thrall Kings under the Popes Curse, and make them



Subject to his Commands, though they were never so heathenish and Diabolicall. By his excusing him of the crimes against the Coney and the Rooke, is shewed that whosoever is resolved to do an ill act will never make conscience to tell a loud Lie, nor is he ever unprovided thereof, because they are

well refreshed himselfe, my youngest sonne Rossell came in and offered to take away what he had left (for you know the nature of Children is ever to be eating and craving.) But presently the Coney smote Rossell on the mouth, that his teeth bled, and the poore sole fell downe almost in a swound, which when as Reynardine (my eldest sonne) beheld: he forthwith leapt to the Coney, and caught him by the head, and questionlesse had slaine him, had I not come to the rescue. Which done, I went and gave my sonne correction for his fault. But presently Laprell the Coney posts to my Lord the King, and informes that I (my selfe) sought meanes to murther him. Thus I am accused without cause and brought in danger, that in truth have best cause to accuse others. But not long after this, came Corbrā the Rook flying to my house with a sad noise, and demanding what he ailed? He answered: Alas, my wife is dead. I craved the cause, he said: A dead Hare lying on the heath full of maches and Mermine, of which she had eaten so much, that the wormes had gnawed

her

her throate in sunder, and without speaking to mee any more words, away he flew, leaving me much amazed, and now reports that I slew his wife, which how could I by any possible meanes doe, considering she flieth in the aire, and I walke afoote on the ground? Thus (deare Uncle) you see how I am slaundered, but it may be it is for my old sinnes, and therefore I beare it with more patience. Then said the Ape to me, Nephew, you shall goe to the Court and disprove their falsehoods. Alas, Uncle (quoth I) it cannot be, for the Archdeacon hath put mee in the Popes curse, because I gave counsell to the Wolfe to forsake his holy orders, when he complained to mee of his unablenesse to endure that strict life, and much fasting: of which Art I now much repent me, since he repayeth my love with nothing but hatred and malice, and with all the slaunders he can invent, stirreth his Majesty daily against me. These things (deare Uncle) bring me to my wits end, for of necessitie I must goe to Rome for absolution, and in mine absence, what injury may happen to my wife and children through the malice of these bloody wretches, any one may guesse: whereas on the other part were I free of the Popes curse, then I could goe to the Court, and plead mine owne cause, and turne their malice into their owne bosomes.

Then said the Ape, Cousin cast off your sorrow, for I know the way to Rome well, & am experienced in these businesses, for I am called the Bishops Clarke, therefore I will goe thither, and enter a plea against the Archdeacon, and in spight of his will, bring you from the Pope a well seal'd absolution. But man, I have many great friends there, as mine Uncle Simon and others, Pren tout, Wayt, Scath, and the like, all which will stand unto mee: besides, I will not goe unfurnisht of money, for I know prayers are best heard with gifts, & the Law hath no feet to walke on but money: a true friend is tried in necessitie, and you shall finde mee without dissembling; therefore cast off your griefe, and goe to the Court as soone as you can, for I will presently to Rome, and in the meane time, here I quit you of all your sinnes and offences, and onely put them upon my selfe: when you come to the

the garments which he ever cloathes his knavery with. By the Apes friends in Rome, as *Simon*, or *Simonie*, *Pren tout* or *take-all*, and *Wait Scath* or *do: mischiefe*, is shewed the wickednesse of these dayes in Rom, and how by much means a man might purchase any thing he went about. By his insinuating with the Apes wife (who was then a great favorite about the Queene) is shewed, the art of a subtill head, that to gaine himselfe a strong party will not spare any false invention, for against those great ones dare not the inferior open their lips. By the slight of the Coney & the Rooke, is shew'd how

soon the weak are terrified & danted with the threatnings of the strong and mighty, that it is better to sit down with wrong, then to contend with one that holdeth too strong a party. And also how by such advantage the offender takes heart, & theron grounds the strength of his greater innocence.

By the Lyons last accusation and the Foxes detection, is shewed that when truth & authority stand up against the wicked, that then stung with his owne conscience, he is able to abide no longer but with silence & downe cast looke, he shews plainely the guile which lies within him.

Court, you shall finde there dame Ruknaw my wife, her two sisters, and my three children, with divers others of our family. I pray you salute them from mee, and shew them mine occasions: my wife is exceeding wise, and she shall finde that her distressed friends shall not shrinke when I can help them. I know she is faithfull, and as behoves her, will never leave her friend in danger. At the uttermost, if your oppression be more then you can beare, send presently to mee to Rome, and not an enemy that you have, be it King or Queene, or Subject, even from the highest to the lowest, but I will presently put them in the Popes curse, and send backe such an Interdiction, that no holy or sacred duty shall be performed till you have right and Justice restored you.

This assure your selfe I can easily performe, for his holynesse is very old and little regarded, and onely now Cardinall Pure-gold beareth all the sway in the Conclave, as being young, and rich in many friends: besides, hee hath a concubine, of whom hee is farre enamoured, that he denies nothing shee demandeth: this Lady is my Niece and will doe whatsoever I request her: therefore Cousin, goe boldly to the King, and charge him to doe you Justice, which I know hee will, since hee understands the Lawes are made for the use of all men.

This (my Soveraigne Lord the King) when I heard him speake I smiled, and with great joy came hither to relate unto you the truth: therefore if there be any Creature within this Court, that can charge me with any trespasse whatsoever, and prove it by testimony as the Law requireth, or if otherwise, hee will oppose himselfe against mee, person to person, grant mee but a day, and equall lists, and in combat I will maintain my innocence against him, provided he be equall to me in birth and degree: this Law hath ever hitherto stood constant, and I hope neither in me, for me, or by me, it shall now be broken.

When all the assembly of Beasts heard this, they were dumbe, and amazed to behold his stoutnesse. As for the Coney and the Rooke, they were so scared they durst not speake, but privately



priuately stole away out of the Court, and being farre on the plaine, they said, This diuelish murtherer hath such Art in his falshood, that no truth can looke with better countenance, which onely our selves know, but haue no other witnesse, therefore it is better we depart, then try combat with him, which is so much too strong for us, and so away they went.

Isegrim the Wolfe, and Bruine the Beare, were very sad when they saw these two forsake the Court: whereupon the King said, If any will appeale the For let him come forth, and he shall be heard: Yesterday we were laden with complaints, where are they to day? here is the For ready to answere. Then said the For, My soueraigne Lord, absence makes impudent accusers bold, when presence daunts them, as your Highnesse may see both by the Coney and the Rooke: O what it is to trust the malice of these Cowards, and how soone they may confound good men: but for me it matters not: nethelesse had they (at your Maiesties commandement) but askt me forgiuenesse, I had quickly cast all their offences

behind.

behinde mée, for I will never shake hands with charity, nor ever have or complaine of mine enemies: my revenge I leave to heaven, and Justice to your Majestie. Then said the King, Reynard, you speake well, if the inward heart be like the outward shew, yet I feare your griefe is not such as you expresse it: It farre surmounts it, said the Fox: No (quoth the King) for I must charge you with one foule treason, which is, when I had pardoned all your great transgressions, and you had promised me to goe a pilgrimage to the holy Land: when I had furnisht you with male, with staffe, and all things fitting that holy order, then in the greatest despite you sent me backe in the male by Bellin the Ram, the head of Kyward the Hare, a thing so notoriously to my disgrace and dishonour, that no treason can be fouler. This you have no coulour to denie, for Bellin (our Chaplein) at his death revealed the whole processe, and the same reward which he then gained, the same you shall receive, or else right shall faile mée.

At this sentence Reynard grew so sore afraid, that he knew not what to say, but looked with a pittifull countenance upon all his kindred which stood round about him: his colour went and came, and his heart fainted, but none lent him either hand or foote to helpe him: then the King said: Thou dissembling and false Traytor, why art thou now dumbe? But the Fox being full of anguish, fetcht a sigh as if his heart would have broke, so that every Beast pitied him, save onely the Beare and the Wolfe, which much rejoyced to behold his sorrow.

CHAP. 20.

How Dame *Rukenaw* answered for the Fox to the King, and of the Parable she told.

DAme Rukenaw the she Ape (being Aunt unto Reynard and a great favorite of the Queenes) was much grieved when she saw this distraction, and it was well for the Fox that she was in the presence: for she was exceeding wise, and durst boldly speake: and therefore rising up (after reverence done) she said, My Lord the King, you ought not to be possest with



with anger, when you ſit in judgement, for it becommeth not Nobility to be voyd of reaſon: it is diſcretion which ſhould onely accompany you in that reaſon: for mine owne part I think I know the Lawes as well as ſome which weare furred Gownes, for I have read many, and put ſome in uſe: It is well knowne, I had ever in the Popes pallace a bed of ſtraw,

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The Morall.

By the shee Apes answering for the Fox, is shewed, how apt weak women are to be flattered into any beliefe, in which they may either expres their pitty, or gaine glory. Also it shewes the verifying of the olde proverbe, That a Friend in Court, is ever worth a pound in a mans purse.

By the violence of her defence, is shewed, the true nature of a woman that evermore runs into extreames, and so shee may doe the good or euill she intends, will not keep any thing concealed which may any way work for her purpose: nor yet any thing

when other Beasts lay on the bare ground, & I was ever suffered to speak freely without interruption, because I talke not beyond mine experience. It is Senecas opinion, that Princes are bound to do Justice to all men, nor may the lay waver or halt with any partiality. I doe not thinke but if every man which standeth here should call to account al the actiõs of his life, he cold not chuse but pitty much the estate of my poore kinsman Reynard, and therefore I wish every one to know himselfe, for none so sure but they may fall, and for him that never erred, he is so good he needeth no amendment. To doe amisse and mend it by counsaile, is humane and manly: but to trespasse and still gallop forward in iniquitie, is devilish and unsufferable: the holy Booke saith, Be mercifull and judge not least you be judged. And in another place when the Pharisies brought a woman taken in adultery, and would have stoned her to death, asking our Lord what he said thereto: he answered: Which of you all is without sinne, let him cast the first stone: but they all departed and left her. In mine opinion it is so here to day, for here be many that finde straws in others eyes, but see not beames in their owne: he that falleth off, and in the end ariseth and commeth to mercy, cannot be said to bee damned: Goodnesse never forsaketh her owne servants. This counsaile, would some take to their hearts, the day would not appeare so dark as it doth to my Cousin Reynard. It is well knowne that both his Grandfather and Father ever bare greater reputation in this Court, then either Bruine or Isegrim. or their whole generations Alas, when have their counsailes or wisedomes beene worthy to have held comparison with those of my cousin Reynards? why, the passages of the world are to them Prophesies which they vnderstand not, and the Court is turned topsie turvy by his absence: the evill are now advanced, and the good suppressed: but how this can long indure I see not, since the end of their labour is but the ruine of your Majesty.

To this speech the King made this answer; Dame, had the Fox done that offence to you he hath done to others, your excuse would couch in another nature: you cannot blame me to

hate

hate him, since it is onely he which breaketh my lawes and covenants: you have heard him accused of theft, murther and treason, how can you then defend him? if you will needs make him your Saint, then set him upon the Alter & doe him worship, but beleeve it, there is no one good thing in him: and howsoever you imagine, yet search him and you shall finde him rotten and deformed: there is neither kinsman nor friend (but your selfe) that will affist him, and therefore your violence drawes my greater wonder. What companion hath he that ever thrived by his society, or whom hath he smil'd on, that his taile hath not after dasht out the eye of?

To this the she Ape replied: My Lord, I love him, and have ever borne him a singular reverence, and I can well recount one noble and good action he did in your presence: for which then you thanked him, though it be now forgotten: yet the heavieſt thing should ever wey the moſt, and men should keepe a measure in their affections, and not hate, nor love with violence, since constancy is the greatest ornamẽt of a Princely nature. We should not praise the day til the evening come, nor is good counsell availeable but to those which meane to pursue it.

I remember about some two yeares since, there came to this court a man and a serpent, to have judgement in a doubtfull controversie: For the Serpent attempting to go through a hedge, was taken by the neck with a snare, so that there was no way for him to escape with life: A certaine man passing by, the Serpent called and cried unto him, and desired his helpe, or else he should perish presently. The man taking pittie of him (said) If thou wilt faithfully promise mée, neither to doe me hurt with thy tooth or taile, or other poyson about thée, I will release thée. The Serpent presently sware hée would not, neither at that time, nor any time hereafter: so the man unloosed him and set him free, and they went forth and travailed together a long season.

At the last the Serpent grew exceeding hungry, & rushing upon the man offered to kill him: but the man started aside, and said: What meanest thou to doe? hast thou forgotten

vaurged, which may disgrace those that are of the contrary faction, as may appeare by the tale of the *Man* and the Serpent, in which she sheweth the wisedome of the Fox, and the folly and disability of the Beare, the Wolfe and the rest of the Foxes enemies.

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thine oath? the ſerpent replyed no: but I may juſtly kill thée ſince I am compelled thereto by hunger, which cancelleth all obligations. Then the man ſaid, if it be ſo, yet give me leave to liue till we may méete with the next paſſenger which may iudge the controuerſie.

The ſerpent agréed thereto: ſo they trauelled till they met with

with Tiſellin the Raven, and Slinopere his ſonne: to whō relating the difference, the Raven adjudged that the Serpent ſhould eat the man, hoping that he and his ſonne ſhould get a ſhare alſo. But the man ſaid, How ſhall hée that is a robber and lives by blood, judge this cauſe? it muſt not be one but divers, and ſuch as know both Law and equity, that muſt judge this contention: the Raven is neither juſt, nor indifferent.

Then they travelled till they met the Beare and the Wolf, unto whom alſo they told the matter, and they adjudged as gainſt the man likewiſe. Then the Serpent began to caſt his venome at the man, but the man leapt away, and ſaid You do me wrong, thus to attempt to kill mée, and the Serpent ſaid, Hath not the Judgement gone twice on my ſide? Yes (ſaid the Man) by ſuch as are murtherers themſelves, and ſuch as never kept promiſe: but I appeale unto the Court, let mée be tryed by your King, and what judgement he giveth, I will willingly abide. To this all conſented: So they came to the Court before your Majeſty, and the Wolfes two children came with their father, the one was called Empty-belly, the other Navell-full, becauſe they ſought to devoure the Man: So the full proceſſe of the matter was declared to your Majeſtie: Both the Mans kindneſſe and covenant, the Serpents danger and Faith-breach, occaſioned through the extremitie of hunger. Remember how much your Highnes was perplext with their differenc, and all your Counſell alſo: For the Mans ſorrow, the Serpents hunger: the Mans goodnes, and the Serpents ingratitude, equally raiſed much pitty in your boſome. But in the end ſuch doubts roſe, that not any in your Court was able to judge it. At the laſt, when no helpe could bee found, then you commanded my kinſman Reynard to decide the buſineſſe: then was hée the Oracle of the Court, nor was any thing received, but what he propounded: But he told your Majeſty it was impoſſible to give true judgement according to their relations, but if hée might ſée the Serpent in what manner hée was fettered, and the greatneſſe of his danger, then he knew well how to give Judgement

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therein. Then you commended him, and called him by the title of Lord Reynard, approoding that to be done which he had spoken.

Then went the man and the Serpent to the place where the Serpent was mar'd, and Reynard, commanded the Serpent to be fastened as before in the sticke, which being done, then said your Majesty, Reynard what Judgement will you now



give? And he replied, They are now my Lord in the same estate they were before at their first incounter, they have neither wonne nor lost: Therefore this is my censure if it be your Majesties pleasure, If the man will now loose and unbinde the Serpent upon the same promise and oath made formerly unto him, he may at his pleasure: But if he thinke that hunger or other inconvenience will make him breake his Faith, then may the man goe freely whither he will, and leade the Serpent bound and intrailed as he first found him: for it is fit that ingratitude be so repayed. This Judge-

ment

ment your Majesty then applauded for most excellent, & held the wisedoms of the Fox unimitable, tearming him the preserver of your Honour. When did ever the Beare or Wolfe the like? they can howle or scould, steale, robbe, and eat fat morsels, make their guts cracke with others ruines: and condemne him to death which takes a Chickin: but themselves which kill Kine, Oxen, and Horses, O they goe safe and be accounted as wise as Solomon, Auicen or Aristotle, and their deeds and Statutes must be read for monuments. But if they come where vertue is to be exercised, they are the first which retreat, and let the simple goe formost, whilst they follow in the retreat with shame and cowardise. These (my Lord) and their like, are the soules of these corrupt times, yet destroy Townes, Castles, Lands and People: nor care they whose house burneth, so they may warme them by the fire: for it is their profit onely at which their aime bendeth. But Reynard the Fox and all his Family have ever made the honour of the King their renowne and advancement, and applyed their counsailes to doe him service, not pride and boasting: this hath beene and is his exercise though it now bee thanklesse. But time I hope will produce whose merit is greatest: Your Majesty saies his kindred is all fallen from him and start at his Fortune: would any but your Highnes had affirmed it: you should then have seene there could not be a thing of greater falshood: But your grace may say your pleasure, nor will I in any word oppose you: for to him that so durst doe, wou'd both he and we bend our forces. It is knowne we dare fight, nor are we descended of any base generation: Your Highnes may call to minde the worth of our Perigree, and how dearly from time to time they have respected him willing ever to lay downe their lives & goods for the safety of their noble kinsman Reynard. For mine owne part I am one my selfe, and albe I am the Wife of another, yet for him I would not sticke to spend my dearest blood. Besides, I have three full growne Children which are knowne valiant and strong in armes, yet for his sake I would adventure them all to the uttermost perill. Albe I love them with that deare affection that no Mo-

ther

ther doth exceed mée: my firſt ſonne is called Bitelas which is moſt active and nimble, my ſecond, Fulrumpe, the third is a daughter called Hatanet, a girle that can looke a mans head, and picke out lice more nimbly then all the combes in Christendome: and theſe three are loving and deare to one another: and with that ſhe called them forth unto her, and ſaid:



Come my deare children and ſtand with your kinſman the Noble Reynard, and with you come all the reſt of our ancient family, and bée all petitioners to the King, that hée will doe to Reynard the equitie of his Lawes and Kingdome. Then preſently came forth a world of other Beaſts, as the Squirrell and the Firret: for thoſe love Pullaine as well as Reynard doth. Then came the Otter and Pantecrote his wife, which I had almoſt forgotten, becauſe in former time they had taken part with the Beare againſt the Fox, but now they dare not but obey Dame Rukenaw, for they ſtood in awe of her wiſedome and greatnes: and with theſe came above twenty

other

her Beasts for her sake and stood by Reynard. Then came also dame Atrot and her two sisters, the Weasel and Hermel the Asse, the Wacke, the water Cat and many others, to the number almost of an hundred, and stood by Reynard with such affection, as if his trouble did equally concerne them. Then said the shie Ape: My Lord the King, now you may see that my Kinsman hath friends which dare avow him, and we are your true and loyall Subiects, which will never faile to doe you faithfull service. Therefore let us with one voyce beg of your Maiesty, that Reynard may have Iustice: and if he be not able to dispose his adversaries, and cleare the crimes imputed against him, let the Law passe, for we will not murmur to see his destruction.

Then said the Kinsme to Rukenaw: Thus much I told unto his Maiesty yesterday, but his anger was so great, he would not give eare to me. Also the Lybard said, Sir, you shall judge accordings to Lawes: for to be govern'd by will, is tyrannous and ignoble. Then answered the King, It is true good counsell thou! but the disgrace done to my particular selfe. [illegible] For speake boldly, and if hee can iustly acquit himselfe of the crimes laid against him, I shall gladly restore him his liberty, and the rather for you his deare friends sake, whom I have ever found faithfull and loyall.

O how infinitely glad was the Fox, when hee heard these words, and said in himselfe, Thankes my noble Aunt a thousand times, thou hast put mee new blossomes on my dry'd Roses, and set me in a faire path to liberty. I have one good foot to dance on: and I doubt not but to use my Art of dissimulation so bravely, that this day shall be remembred for my renowne and victory.

Reynard the Fox

CHAP. 21.

How *Reynard* excused himselfe of *Kywards* death, and all other imputations, got the Kings favours, and made a relation of certaine Jewels.



Then spake Reynard the Fox to the King, and said: Alas my soveraigne Lord, what is that you said? Is good Kyward the Hare dead? O where is then Bellin the Ramme, or what did he bring to your Majestie at his returne? For it is certaine I delivered him those rich and inestimable Jewels. I would not for the wealth of India they should be detained from you: the chiefe of them I directed to you my Lord the King, the other two to my soveraigne Lady the Queene. But (said the King) I received nothing but the Head of poore murdered Kyward, for which I executed the Ramme, having confest the deed to be done by his advice and counsaile. Is this truth (said the Fox) then woe is mee that ever I was borne,

borne, for there are lost the goodliest Jewels that ever were in the possession of any Prince living: would I had died when you were thus defrauded. For I know it will be the death of my wife, nor will shee ever henceforth esteeme me. Then said the shee Ape: Deare Nephew, why should you sorrow thus for transitory wealth? Let them goe, onely discourse what manner of Jewels they were, it may be we shall finde them againe: If not, the Magician Mr. Alkarin shall labour his books and search all the corners of the earth. Besides, whosoever detaines them, shall be curst in all Parishes till hee restore them to the Kings Majesty. O Aunt (said the Fox) doe not perswade your selfe so, for whosoever hath them, will not restore them to gain an Empire, they are so goodly and precious: yet your words doe something appease mee. But whom shall wee trust in this corrupt age, when even Sanctity it selfe walks maskt and mistaken? And then fetching a deep sigh, with which he guilded his dissimulation: He proceeded on and said, Harken all you of my flocke and lynage, for I will here discover what these rich Jewels were, of which both I and the King are defrauded. The first of them (and which indeed I intended to his Majesty) was a Ring of fine & pure gold, and within this Ring next the finger, were engraven Letters enamelled with Azure and Sables, containing three Hebrew names. For my owne part I could neither read nor spell them, but Mr. Abrion of Trere, the excellent linguist, who knoweth the Natures of all manner of Hearbs, Beasts and Mynerals: To this famous Jew I shewed the Ring once, and he assured me, that they were those three Names which Seth brought out of Paradise when hee brought to his Father Adam the Oile of Mercy. And whosoever shall weare these three Names about him, shall never be hurt by Thunder or Lightning, neither shall any Witchcraft have power over him: He shall not be tempted to doe any sinne, neither shall heate or colde ever annoy him. Upon the top of the Ring was enchast a most precious Stone of three severall colours: The first like red Christall, and glittering like fire, and that with such brightnes, that if one had occasion to journey by night,

The Morall.



By the relation which the Fox made of the Iewels and their severall vertues and riches, is shewed the policy of the wicked which are ever prepared of those baits which they know will soonest catch the minds of them they are to intangle: as wealth, health, honour, & vertue: all which be lodged in those Iewels. As for the stories contained in them, the Fox doth moralize them himselfe, shewing in them severally, the imputations he would have the Lion know to be in his enemies, and such examples are evermore bitter, and worke more in the mindes of the hearers, then any vio-

the light thereof was so great as that at Noone day. The other colour was white and clere, as if it had beene burnished, and the vertue of it was to cure any blemish or soyonesse in the eyes, or any part of the body: Also by touching the place agrieved (throughout) it pleasantly dried all manner of swellings, headache, or any sickenesse whatsoever: whether it

were venome, weakneſſe of ſtomacke, chollick, ſtone, ſtrangulion, Fiſtula, or Canker, either outwardly applyed as afore ſhewed, or inwardly by ſteeping the ſtone in water, and then drinking the ſame, the laſt colour was greene like graſſe mixt with a few ſmall ſpots of purple: and the learned affirmed for truth, that whoſoever weares this ſtone about him, could never be vanquiſht by his enemies, & that no creature were he never ſo ſtrong and hardy, but would yeild unto him, and he ſhould be victor day and night in all places: againe, as farre as one eye if ſeeing, into what company ſoever he chanced (al be his moſt enemies) yet ſhould he be of them infinitly beloved, nor ſhould any anger or evill turne be remembred: Alſo if one ſhould be naked in a vaſt wilde field againſt an hundred armed enemies, yet ſhould not his heart faile him, but he ſhould come off with honour and victory: onely he muſt be fearfully dyed, and of his ſpecifick diſpoſition, for the King gave no vertue to any which was not a true Gentleman. Now all theſe vertues conſidered, I thought my ſelfe unworthy to keepe it: and therefore I ſent it to you my Lord the King, knowing you to be the excellenteſt of all creatures living, and one on whom all our lives depend, and therefore fitteſt to be guarded with ſo rich a Jewell.

This Ring I found in my Fathers treaſure, and in the ſame place alſo I found a Combe and a glaſſe Mirrour, which my wife begged of me: they were Jewels of great wonder and admiration: theſe were ſent to my Lady the Queene, becauſe of her grace and mercy extended towards me: To ſpeake of the Combe; it can never be too much praiſed, for it was made of the bone of a noble beaſt named Panthera, which liveth between the greater India and earthly Paradiſe: he is ſo goodly and faire of colour, that there is no beautifull colour under heaven but ſome ſplendour thereof appeares in him: alſo the ſmell of him is ſo delicately ſweet and wholſome, that the very ſavour excels all infirmities, and for his excellent beauty and rare odour, all other beaſts attend and follow him, for he is the Phiſician to all their ſickneſſes. This Panthera hath one faire horne broad and thinne, which whoſoever this beaſt is ſlaine,

lent ſpeech or invection whatſoever. By the repeating of his and his Fathers ſervices, is ſhewed, the ſubtill inſinuation of offenders, which to extenuate preſent crimes, call to minde their good deeds paſt, not ſo much for the memory of the good example, as to beg a new reward, though it have bin never ſo often payd for, for noble ſpirits have ever a tender feeling, and are ſoone toucht with the remembrance of any good turne received, for it is an obligation they ſeldome cancell.

flame, all the vertues of the whole beast doe rest in that bone, which can never be broken, neither ever rot, consume or perish,



either by fire, water, or other violence: yet it is so light a small feather may poise it: the smell of it hath that vertue, that whosoever smells it, taketh delight in no other smell whatsoever, and they are presently eased of all manner of diseases and infirmities, and the heart is chearefull and merry ever after.

This combe is polished like unto fine silver, and the body of it be small and straight, and betweene the great teeth and the small in a large field or space, there is graven many an Image, subtilly made, and cunningly enamelled about with fine gold: the field is checked with Sables and Vert, and enamelled with Cyprus and Azure: and therein is contained the story how Venus, Juno, and Pallas strove for the golden Ball in the mountaine Ida, and how it was put to Paris, to give it to the fairest of them.

Paris at that time was a Shepheard, and kept his Flocks with

with Oenon on that hill, and affoons as he had received the Ball, Juno promised, if he would bestow it on her, she would make him the richest man in the world. Pallas said, if she might have it, to make him the wisest man in the world, and the most fortunate against his enemies; But then Venus said, What need'st thou wealth, wisedome or valour? art thou not Priamus sonne and Hectors brother, which have all Asia under their power? Art thou not one of the heirs of mighty Troy? come give me the Ball, and I will give thee the greatest treasure of the world, and that shall be the fairest Lady breathing. She whose like no Woman shall ever againe behold, so that thou be richer then riches and humble above all glory: that if the wealthy none can praise too much, fierce Beauty is that heavenly Elysar, which turnes all things in mans to joy and contentment.

When Paris heard this, he desired to know the Lady, and Venus said, It is faire Hellen of Greece, the wife of King Menelaus, she that is the Jem of the world, the treasure of beauty, and the glory of all eyes which behold her; then presently Paris gave her the Ball, and confessed her fairer then the other Goddesses. Then he sent her [illegible] Hellen, brought her to Troy, the solemnity at the marriage, the honour at the triumphes, and all things else contained in that large story.

Now for the Glasse-Mirror, it was not inferiour to either of the other: for the glasse which stood thereon was of such vertue, that men might see & perceive therein whatsoever was don within a mile thereof, whether it were the actions of men, or beasts, or any thing else the owner would desire to know, and whosoever but gazed therein, if he had any malady whatsoever, it was presently cured. So great were the vertues of this rare Glasse, that wonder not if I shew reasons to thinke of the walls: for the wood in which this Glasse stood was light and fast, and is called Catine, it will last ever: for wormes, dust, wet nor fire can consume it, and therefore King Salomon seeles his Temple with the same; the value exceeded far the value of gold, it is like to the wood [illegible] of which King

Crampart



Grampart made a Voyage, for the love of the most beautifull daughter of King Morcadiges. This house was made with such Art within, that whosoever rode on it, if he pleased, he would runne above an hundred miles in lesse then an houre, which was approved by Clamades the Kings sonne, who not beleeving in the Engine, and being young and lusty, leapt upon the

the Horse, and presently Crampart turning a pinne that stood in the brest of the Engine, moved, and went out of the Palace through the windowes, and in the first minute he was gone at least ten mile, Clamades was much affrighted at the wonder and imagined (as the story said) that hée should never have returned backe againe: but of his long journey, much feare, great trouble, and infinite joy, when he had learned to manage and governe the wooden beast. I leave to speake for tediousnesse sake; onely the high vertue of all issued from the wood.

Of this wood the Glasse case was made, being larger then the Glasse by halfe a foote and more square, upon which verge was decyphred divers many strange Histories, in Gold, in Silver, in Sables, Yellow, Azure and Cynope: and these colours were very curiously wrought and interlayd together, and under each Historie the words so engraven and enamuled, that any man might read the whole Story: beside it, the world never produced a thing of greater worth, matter or pleasure. In the upper part thereof stood a Horse in his naturall glory, fat, faire, and fiery, which braved a stately Part which ranne before him: but seeing he could not overtake the Part in swiftnesse, at which he infinitely disdained, hée went to a Heardsman standing by, and told him, if he would helpe him to take a Part which he would shew him, he should have all the profit of the conquest, as the hornes, skinne, and flesh: Then the Heardsman asked him what meanes he should use to get him: the Horse said, mount upon My backe, and I will beare thée after him, till with tyring wée take him. The heardsman tooke his offer, and bestriding the Horse followed the Teare: but hée fled away so fast, and got so much ground of the Horse, that with much labour the Horse grew weary, and hée bade the Heardsman alight, for he would rest himselfe a while: But the Heardsman said; I have a bridle on thy head, and spurres on my heeles, therefore know thou art now my servant; neither will I part with thée, but governe thée as seemes best to my pleasure. Thus the Horse brought himselfe into thraldome, and was taken in his owne net, for no creature

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hath a greater adversary then his owne eyes: and many which labour the hurt of others, still fall upon their owne ruines.

In another part was figured an Asse, and an Hound: which were both the servants of a rich man. The man loved his Hound exceedingly, and would oft play with him, and suffer the dogge to fawne and leape upon him, and now and then to licke him about the mouth. Now when Sandi saw the Asse saw this, he began to envie the Hound, and said: What sees my Master in this foule Hound, that he suffers him thus to leape upon him, and kisse him? Is it possible for me to do him. I labour, beare and draw, and doe more service to one worke then the dogge and his whole kinde are able to doe in a yeare, and yet have I not the thirtieth part of his favours: for he fetcheth by his trencher, barres the doore, and lies on Carpets and Pillowes: when I that doe all my labours am clogged with Nettles and Thistles. Well, I will no longer endure it, but I will study to have my Lords favour as much as the Hound, if not in greater measure. Anone the Master of the house came home, and the Asse lifting up his heele let fall with his fore-foote on his shoulders, and braying and grinning, and put forth his mouth to kisse him; and used such rude unmannerly action, that he rubd all the skinne from his Masters eare, and almost overthrew him: so that the man was forced to cry out helpe, helpe, for this Asse will kil me. Then came in his servants with staves, and beat the Asse so exceedingly, that he was almost slaine: which done, he returned to his stall againe, and was an Asse as he was before. In the same manner, they which doe envie and spite at others welfare, if they receive the same reward, or nothing more, then is due to their merit: for an Asse is an Asse and was borne to eate Thistles: and where Asses governe, there order is never observed, for they have no eye either on this side, or beyond their owne private profit: yet sometimes they are advanced, the more is the pittie.

In another part was figured the Story, how my Father and Tybert the Cat travailed together, and fought by their

 troath,

treaty, that neither for love nor hate they would depart one from the other: but it happened on a time they saw Hunters comming over the fields with a kennell of Hounds, from which they fled apace, for their lives were in danger. Then said the Fox, Tybert, whither shall we flye: for the Hunters have espied us? for mine own part I have a thousand wiles to escape them, and as long as we abide together we shall not neede to feare them. But the Cat began to sigh and was exceedingly afraid, and said Reynard, what need is many words? I have but one wile, and that must helpe me, and forthwith he clambred up to the top of an high Tree, where he lurkt amongst the leaves, that neither Huntsman nor Hound could hurt him, and left my Father to abide the whole hazard, for the wilde Kennell pursued him, hornes and hallowes ecchoing after him: kill the Fox, kill the Fox.

This when Tybert saw, he mocked my Father, and said: How now Reynard, it is time to set loose all your wiles for if your wit faile you, I feare your whole body will perish. This my Father hearing from him he most trusted, and being then in the height of pursuit wearied, and almost spent, he lett his male slip from his shoulders, to make himselfe so much lighter, yet all availes not, for the Hounds were so swift they had caught him, had he not by chance espied a hole, into which he entred, and escapt the Hounds and Huntsmen. Thus you may see the false faith of the Cat, whose like there be many living at this time, and though this might excuse me for loving the Cat, yet my scales of zeale and charity binder me to the contrary, and I wish him no hurt, though his misfortunes shall never be grievous to me: not so much for hatred as the remembrance of his injuries which often contends against my reason.

Also in that Booke I finde another History of the Wolfe, how on a time he found upon a Heath a dead Horse, whose flesh being eaten away, he was faine to gnaw and devoure the bones, which he did with such greedines that swallowing them too hastily downe, one fell so crosse his throat, that he was almost choak'd, and hardly escapt with life: whereupon

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hée sought every place for the cunningest Surgions promising them great gifts to ease his torment: but having lost much labour, in the end he met with the Crane, and besought him with his long necke and bill to helpe him, and he would highly reward him. The Crane greedy of gaine, put in his head into the Wolfes throat, and brought out the bone. The Wolfe farted at the pull, and cried aloude, thou hast mée, but I doe forgive thée, yet doe it not againe I charge thée, for at anothers hands I would not beare it: then the Crane said: Sir Isegrim, goe and be frolick, for you are whole, I looke for no more but the reward you promised mée: How (said the Wolfe) what impudence is this? I suffer and have cause to complaine, yet he will be rewarded, he will not so much as thanke me for his life, but forgets that his head was in my mouth, and how I suffered him to draw it out againe without hurting, albeit he put me to exceeding much paine: I suppose it is I which deserve the reward, and not the Crane.

Thus you may sée the fashion of ungratefull men in these dayes, how ever they reward good with evill: for whereas pride is exalted, there honour is ever laid in the dust. There hée a world which ought to reward, and doe good to those that have advanc'd them, which now complaine, and make those advancements injuries, but the guerdon will follow: for it is the wisest counsaile, that whosoever will goe about to chastice another, should ever be sure of his owne clearenesse. All this and a world more then I can well remember was curiously wrought on this Glasse: for the worke-master thereof was the cunningest and profoundest Clarke in all Sciences that ever breathed. And because the Jewels were too good and precious for me to keepe: therefore I sent them to the King and Queenes Majesty as a present to witnesse my faith and service: O hee that had seene what sorrow my children made when I sent the Glasse away, would have wondred, for by reason of the great vertue therein, they oft gazed in the same, both to behold themselves, and to sée how their cloathing and apparell became them.

Little

Little did I then imagine that good Kyward was so néere his death, for there but himselfe, and Bellin then Ram, I knew no messengers worthy to carry so rich a present. But I will search the whole world, but I will find the murtherer, for murther cannot be hid. It may bée he is in this presence which knowes what is become of Kyward, albe he doe conceale it; for many Devils walke like Saints. But the greatest wonder of all is (which troubles me most,) that my Lord the King should say, that my Father nor my selfe ever did good. But the troubles of affaires may well breed forgetfulnes in Kings, otherwise your Majesty might call to minde how when the King your Father lived, and you there a Prince not aboue three yeares old, my Father came from the Schoole at Mountpelior, where he had studied five yéeres the Art of Physick, and was expert in all the principles thereof, and so famous in those dayes. Had he those clothes of Silke and a Golden Girdle. Now when he was come to the Court, hee found the King in great extremity of sickness, (which was no little griefe unto him, for he loved the King most dearly) and the King reioyced at his sight, and would not suffer him to be out of his presence. All others might walke whether they would, onely hee must ever be néere him. Then said your Father Reynard I am exceeding sicke, and I feele my sicknesse increasing. My Father answered; my Lord, héere is an Urinall, make water therein, and as soone as I behold your state, I will give some opinion. The King did so he was admitted (for he trusted not any equall with him.) Then said my Father: My best Lord, if you will be eased of your griefe, you must néedes eate the Lyver of a Wolfe of seven yéeres old, or else your disease is incurable.

The Wolfe at that time stood by your Father, but said nothing: whereupon the King said, Sir Isegrim, you heare how there is nothing which can cure mée but your Liver. The Wolfe replyed: not so my Lord, for I am not yet full five yéeres old. It is no matter (answered my Father) let him be opened, and when I see the Liver, I will tell you if it bée medicinable: Then was the Wolfe carried to the Kit-

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ckin and his Lyver taken out, which the King eate, and was presently cured of his sickenesse. Whereby the King thanked my Father, and commanded all his Subjects upon paine of death, from thence-forth to call him Master Reynard. So he abode still about the King, walked by his side, and was trusted in all things, and the King gave him (for an honour) a Garland of Roses which he must ever weare upon his head. But the remembrances are all lost and gone, and his enemies are now onely advanced, vertue is put backe, and Innocence lives in sorrow: for where Knaves and cheaters are made Commanders, they neither know themselves, nor looke at the low men from whence they are risen. Now hearing he was so highly graced by the poore mans Lambe. Did not the Gentiles crucifie their God which they worship. What great mans Gate hath not many locks up Cobwebbes, where in small flies are entertained, and bad Paper takes notice of his above-written Verses? Who could practise more cheating sleights with slightier Gamesters, then could grime fleeting Lapwings? For sicke Whelpes they had rather see their Dammes then them: This my Lord was an evill deed which fell in your sight, and you may doe it forget it: But (without boasting) I may say I have done to you both honour and service, and perhaps also forgot this which I shall ever post unto you. Doe not forbid your Majesty so, for you are ever bound by more then I can tender, and your Majesty to be the next of kin shall swear it, which I am ever bound by the Lawes of God and Nature to perform.

So it was, that on a time I Segrim the Wolfe and Isegrim had gotten a Swine under us, and by reason of his extreame lowde crying, we were compelled to bite him to death. At which time your selfe came out of a Grove unto us, and saluted us friendly, saying: That you and the Queene your wife which came after you, were both exceeding hungry, and intreated us to give you part of our gettings: Segrim then whispered in such manner, that none could understand him, but I spake out alowde: With all my heart my Lord, and were it better then

friends and kindred: Nay if they had power, even your Majesty also, for they make no respect either of friend or enemy. But woe to that common wealth where such have the upper hand and government.

Gracious Lord, this and many such like actions as this have I done for your Majesty, which were it not for tediousnes sake I could well repeate. But they are all now cast out of your remembrance, but time and my loyalty I hope will

the

ons day againe recall them. I have seene the day when no matter was finished in the Court without my advice and censure, though now that Judgement is not so reputed: yet it may be, the same reputation may spring up againe, and be believed as firmely as before, as long as it swerves not from Justice which is the onely thing I aime at. For if any one can charge me otherwise and prove it by witnesse, here I stand to indure the uttermost the Law can inflict upon me: But if malice onely slaunder me without witnesse, I crave the combat according to the Law and custome of the Court. Then said the King, Reynard you say well, nor know I any thing more of Kywards death then the bringing of his head unto me by Bellin the Ramme; therefore of it I here acquit you. My deare Lord (said the Fox) I humbly thanke you: yet is his death so grievous unto me I cannot let it passe so easily: I remember my heart was heavy at their departure, and I was ready to fall to the ground, which was a certaine presage of the losse which happened.

These words, and the said lookes of the Fox, so amazed all the beholders, that they could not chuse but believe all that he uttered, so that every one bemoan'd his losse, and pitied his sorrow. But the King and Queene were most touched with the same, and then intreated him that he would make diligent search for the finding of them out, for his praises had stricken them farre in love with the Jewels. And because he told them, he had sent those Jewells unto them (though they never said them) yet they gave him as great thankes, as if they had him in their safe possession, and desired him he would be a meanes they might be restored to them againe.

CHAP. 22.

CHAP. 22.

How *Reynard* made his peace with the King, and how *Isegrim* the Wolfe complained of him againe.

THe Foxe understood their meaning exceeding well, and though he little meant to performe what they intreated,



yet he thanked the King and Queen for the comforts they gave him in his great extremity, wishing not to rest, neither night nor day, but to search all the corners of the earth till he had found what was become of those Jewels: also increasing his [illegible] to bestow in such places, where he might be certified by spies, if neither his prayers nor power might attaine unto them, that then his Highnesse would assist him, both because it was an occasion which concerned him so nearely, as also a thing required from his Office, being an act of perfect Justice, to punish theft, and murther, both which were contained in this action.

Then the King assured him, that so soone as it should bee knowne where they were, no helpe or assistance should be wanting. The Forrester gave the King humble thankes, for now he had gotten all his purposes to the wished end he expected, and by his false tale and flattery, had so fastned the King unto him, that now he might goe freely whither he pleased, and none should dare to complaine upon him: onely Negrim the Wolfe stood all this while infinitely displeased, and not able to containe his anger any longer, he said: O my Lord the King, is it possible your Majesty should be so much childish or weake of beliefe, as to fixe your trust upon the falshood of this ever-deceiving marchant, which hath nothing but shadowes and Chymeraes wherewith to inchant you? O be not so easily seduced, he is a wretch all covered and besmeared with murther and treason, and even to your owne face hath made a scoffe of your Majesty. For my owne part I am glad he is here in your presence, and I intend to ring him such a peale of contrary nature, that all the lies he can indent shall not beare him away with safety.

So it is (my dread Lord) that this dissembling and false Traitor not long since did betray my wife most shamefully: for if [illegible] upon a Winters day, that they two travelled together through a very great water, and he perswaded my wife, that he would teach her a singular Art how to catch fish with her taile, by letting it hang angle wise in the water a

good while, whereunto he said, there would so much fish instantly cleave, that halfe a dozen of them should not able to



devoure it. The silly fole my wife (supposing all to be truth which came from him) went presently into the mire up to the belly before she came to the water, and comming into the

depth of the water (as he directed her) she held her tayle downe still in the water, expecting when there the fish should cleave to: but the weather being sharpe and frosty) shee stood there so long, that her tayle was frozen hard to the Ice, so that all the force she had was not able to pull it out: but when this lustfull villaine beheld that, he presently leapt upon her and ravished her in such beastly and shamefull manner, that no modest eare is able to heare the odiousnesse of the action. My poore wife being disarmed of all resistance, wel might she shrieke, cry, and exclame upon the basenesse of her owne teares, but all to noe purpose, the deed was done, and the villaine triumphed. This no impudence can make him deny, for I came and tooke him in the action. O how much Jealousie, griefe, and fury assail'd me at that instant. I was even distract to behold them: and cryed Reynard, villaine what art thou doing: but he seeing me so neere approaching, presently leapt from her and ranne his way. Soe I went unto her with much sorrow and heavinesse, having a world of labour ere I could breake the Ice about her: and in despite of all my cunning, yet she was compeld to leave a piece of her taile behind her: and indeed, we both escaped hardly with our lives. For by reason of the great anguish she endured, she barked so loud, that the people of the next village rose up, and came with staves and bils, with flailes, and pitchforkes, and the wives with their distaves, and so fiercely assaulted us, crying, Kill, kill, and slay, slay, that I was never in so desperate a taking. One slave among the rest, which was strong and swift of foote, hurt us sore with a Pike-staffe: and had not the night befriended us, we had never escaped that danger. From hence we came into a field full of brookes and brambles, where we hid us from the fury of our enemies. Thus my Gracious Lord, you have heard how this Traitor and murtherer hath us'd us, and against the same we crave the right of your Law and Justice.

But Reynard answered and said, if this were true, I confesse it would touch me neere in honour and reputation: but God forbid that ever such a slaunder should be proved against

mee:

me: I confesse I taught her to catch fish and taught him how to enter the water and never touch the mire: but her gradinesse so transported her when she heard me name the fish, that she ranne without helpe on any path or direction, and so comming into the Ice, she was there presently fast in by reason of her too long tarrying for the Salmon: fish then would have satisfied twentie reasonable appetites: but it is commonly seene, that who all would have, all forgoe: for covetousnesse seldome bringeth any thing well home: yet when I saw her so fastned in the Ice, I plied all my best endeavours to loosen her, and to that end was heaving and shoving about her, but to little purpose, for by reason of her waight I was not able to move her.

Now whilst this was in doing, came Isegrim, and seeing me so busie about her, Charles like he most vilely slaundered me, like a profane Cuttald which takes delight to be accounted a Cuckold: but believe it my gracious Lord, all was false, and his wife vertuous, for any thing within my knowledge: whence I am perswaded, that surely his eye dazled, for indeed he uttered many a grievous curse, and threatned much revengement against me. So that more to eschew his blasphemy then fury, I went my way, and he came, and with as great ardor and as much heave and shove he helpt her out: which done, (they then almost starved with hunger) scant and scopt up and devoure the fishes to gether: and that this is all truth which I have spoken, I will willingly be perjured, for I would not be the father of any falsehood to face your Majestie, to be Master of many millions: howsoever my fortunes goe, I respect not, truth is my badge, and hath ever bene the Ensigne of all my Ancestors: and if there bee any scruple or doubt made of mine allegation, I aske but eight dayes liberty, that I may conferre with my learned Councell, and I will so approve all my words by the oath and testimony of good and sufficient witnesse, that your Majestie and your honourable Councell shall accord to the justnesse of my protestation. As for the Wolfe, what have I to doe with him? it is well known already that he is a debaucht and almost notorious

The Morall.

By the complaint of the Wolfe, is shewed the envy that one all man beares another, and how both they are, that any of their contrary faction should scape punishment, and that to gain revengmēt, they care not what indignity they doe to themselves, as doth appeare by the Wolfes slaundering of his owne wife. By the rising of the Towne up against the Wolfe and his wife is shewed that one mischiefe seldom commeth to ill folkes, but another still followes it at the heeles. By the Foxes excuse, is shewed, how policy hath ever an evasion or a cloke for any evill it doth &

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The Foxes contempt of the Wolfe, shewes that the strength of policy consists in disgracing the adverse part, and calling his good name in question, by which meanes he may loose life & credit.

By the thee Wolves falling into the well.

rious villaine, false both to heaven and to your Majesty, and now his owne words witnesse him a base slanderer of women: therefore I referre my selfe to the triall of his wife: if she accuse me, let the world hold me guilty, provided she may be made free from her husband, whose tyranny will compell her to say any thing, though never so unjustly.

At this, forth stept Dame Arsewind, the Wolfes wife, and said: O Reynard, thou hast so oylie a smooth tongue, and so dipt in flattery, that no man is safe from thine inchantment: it is not once, but oft thou hast deceived me, remember but how thou didst use me at the well with two buckets, which hanging at one cord, and running thorough one pulley, which ever as one went downe, the other went up. I remember how thou getting into one of them, fast downe to the bottome of the well, and there satest in great danger and perill, so that I ran thither with great haste, and heard thee sigh and make great moane, then asking thee how thou camest there, and thou answeredst me that thou wert there a fishing, and hadst so



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much fish, of which thou hadst eaten so many, that thy belly was ready to breake with swelling: then I asked how I might come to thee, and thou saidst: Aunt leape into that bucket which hangeth there, and you will be presently with me: which I no sooner did, but (being much heavyer then thy selfe) I fell presently to the bottome of the well, and thou cam'st up to the top: at which when I seem'd to be angry, thou said'st, Aunt, this is but the fashion of the world: ever as one comes up, another must goe downe, and so said, you leapt out of the bucket and ranne your way, leaving me there all alone, where I remained a whole day, pined with hunger and starved with cold, and ere I could get out from thence, received so many blowes, that my life was neder in greater danger. The Fox replyed: Aunt though the stroakes were painefull unto you, yet I had rather you should have them then my selfe, for you are stronger and better able to beare them, and at that time of necessitie, one of us could not escape them: besides Aunt, I taught you wisedome and experience, that you should not trust either friend or foe, when the matter be perswades to, to the avoyding of his owne perill: for nature teacheth us to love our owne welfare, and hee which doth otherwise, is crown'd with nothing but the title of folly.

shewes the effect of covetousnesse, which never brings any thing home but losse and danger, and that policy cares not who pines, so hee feele no pain, as appeares by the Foxes temping her into the Bucke.

By their entring into the she Asses Cave, is shewed the difference betwixt temperance, & rashon s, and how farre good words will prevaile before rude and churlish behaviour.

Then said came Arsewind to the King: I beseech your Majesty marke how this dissembler can blow with all windes, and paint his mischeifes with false colours: a world of times hath he brought me into these hazards. Once he betray'd me to my Aunt the she Ape, where ere I escaped I was fain to leave one of mine eares behinde me: if the Fox dare tell the truth of the story (for I know his memory to be much better: besides he is apt to catch advantage from the weakneſse of my language) I desire no better evidence against him. Then said the Fox, willingly I will doe it, and without flattery or falshood, and therefore I beseech your Majesty lend me your Royall patience.

Upon a certaine time the Wolfe here came to me into the Wood, and complained unto me that he was extreeding hungry,

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gry, (yet never saw him fouler in my life) but he would ever resemble: at which presently I took pity of him and said, I was also as hungry as he: so away he went and travelled halfe a day together without finding any thing, then began he to whine and crie, and said, he was able to goe no further. Then hard by the foote of a Hathorne Tree, we espied a hole all covered over with Brambles, and heard a great rushing therein, but could not imagine the cause why: then I desired the Wastle to goe in and looke if any thing were there to profit us (for something I knew there was) then said he, Cousin, I would not creepe into the hole for a hundred pounds, till I knew certainely what was therein, for there may be danger: but if you please to attempt it, who I know hath both Art and wit to save your selfe, I will stay here under this Tree till your returne: but I beseech you make hast and let me know what is therein as soone as you perceive it.

Behold, my dread Lord the King, thus he hath made me poore silly beast to goe before into the hazard, and he who is great, strong and mighty, did abide without in peace, wherein I expresse no little friendship, for I would not endure the like danger for a Kingdome: but to proceede, I entred into the hole, and found the way darke, long and tedious: in the end I espied a great light, which came in on the further side of the hole, by which I saw there lying a great She Ape, with eyes glimmering and sparkling with fire, her mouth set round with long sharpe teeth, and on her hands & feete nailes sharpe as an Elsin or Bodkin. I imagined her at first a Marmozin, or Baboone, or else a Mereat, for a more dreadfull beast I never beheld in all my life time, and by her side lay divers of her children, which like her selfe were sterne and cruell of countenance: when they saw me come towards them, they gaped wide with their mouthes upon me, so that I grew amazed, and wish'd my selfe farre from the harbor. But resolving with my selfe, that now I was in, I must quit my selfe as well as I could, I looked more constantly upon her, and me thought she appeared bigger then Hegrim the Wolfe, and the least of her whelps much larger then my selfe (for a fouler

company

company I never saw) they were all laid in foule litter, rotten and dusty with their owne pisse, they were all daubed and clogged with their owne dung, which stunke so filthy that I was almost poysoned with the smell. For my owne part I durst not but speake them faire, and therefore I said: Aunt, God give you many good dayes, and blesse you and my Cousins, your pretty children: questionles they are the fairest of their ages that ever I beheld, and so surpasse in beauty and perfection, that they may well be accounted of most Princely issue. Truely Aunt, we are infinitely beholden to you that doth adde this increase and glory to your family. For my owne part (deare Aunt) when I heard you were laid downe and delivered, I could not stay but must needs come to visit you: Then replyed shee, Cousin Reynard, you are exceeding welcome: you have found me like a slut, but I thanke you for your kind visitation: you are a worthy Gentleman, and (thorow the Kings Dominions) for your wit and iudgement, held of singular reputation, you doe much honour to your kindred, and are famous for the miracles you worke to their preferments: I must intreat you to take the charge of my children, and instruct them in the rules of knowledge and science, that they may know hereafter how to live in the world. I have thought of you ever since they were borne, and resolved upon this, Cousin, because I knew your perfection, and that you accompanied your selfe with none but the good and the vertuous.

O how glad was I, when I heard those words to proceed from her, which kindnes was onely, because at first I called her Aunt, who indeed was no soule kin unto me: for my true Aunt indeed is onely Dame Rukenaw which standeth yonder: who indeed is the mother of excellent children. Yet notwithstanding I answered this foule monster. Aunt my life and goods are both at your service, and what I can doe for you night or day, shall ever be at your commandement and your children. Yet I most heartily wisht my selfe farre from them at that instant, for I was almost poysoned with their stinke. And I pitied Isegrim who was sore griped with

hunger all this while: and offering to take my leave, and faining that my wife will thinke it long till my returne, She said Deare Cousin, you shal not depart till you haue eaten something, I shall take it unkindly if you offer it, then rose she up, and carried mee into an inner roome where was great store of all kind of Venison both the red Deare, fallow Deare, and Roe: also great store of Partridge, Pheasant, & other Fowles, that I amazed much from whence such store of meate should come. Now when I had eaten sufficiently, shee gaue me a side and halfe a haunch of a Hinde, to carry home to my wife, which I was ashamed to take but that she compel'd me: and so taking my leave and being intreated often to visit her, I did depart thence, much ioyed that I had sped so well.

Now being come out of the Causey, I spyed where as Isegrim lay groaning pittifully, and I asked him how he fared? he said, Wondrous ill, and so extremely ill, that (deare Nephew) without some meate I die presently: then did I take compassion of him, and gaue him my wifes token which preserued his life, and for which then he gaue me a world of thanks, though now he hate me extremely, But as soone as he had deuoured up my Venison, he said: Reynard, my deare Cousin, what found you in the hole? beleeue it I am now more hungry then I was before, and this the ill morsell hath but sharpned my teeth to eate more. Then said I to him, Unckle, get you into that hole, and you shall find store of delicates, for there lyeth my Aunt with her children: if you can flatter and speake her faire, you need feare no hard measures, all things will be as you would with it.

I thinke (my gracious Lord) this was warning sufficient, and that which might haue armed any wise spirit. but rude and barbarous beasts will neuer vnderstand wisedome. And therefore they loath the policies they know not, But yet he promised to follow my counsell: so forth he went into that foule stinking hole, and found the Ape in that filthy sort as before I described: which when he saw (being affrighted) he cried out, Woe and alas, I thinke I am come into hell: did

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ever creature ſée ſuch fearefull goblings: drowne them, for shame drowne them, they are ſo ugly, they are able to feare the Devill, why they make my haire ſtand on end with their horrid deformity. Then (ſaid ſhe) Sir *Iſegrim*, their creation is not my fault, let it ſuffice, they are my children, and I am their Mother. Nor ought their beautie or hard favour to diſpleaſe you: here was a kinſman of theirs to day, and is but newly departed, who is well knowne to exceed you, both in birth, vertue, and wiſedome, and he accounted them faire and lovely, for your opinion I care not: therefore you may depart at your pleaſure. Then he repli'd (Dame) I would have you know, that I would eat of your meate, it is much better beſtowed on me, then on theſe ugly Urchins. But ſhee told him, ſhe had no meate: Yes (ſaid he) here is meate enough, & with that, offering to reach at the meate, my Aunt ſtart up with her children, and ranne at him with their ſharpe nailes, and ſo clawed him, that the blood ranne about his eares, and I heard him cry and howle ſo extremely, that it appeared he had no defence, but to runne out of the hole, as faſt as he could. For indeed he came out both extremely beaten, and extremely bitten, and all his skin flaſht like a ſpanish Jerkin: and one eare left behind, for a pawne of his manners.

This when I ſaw, I asked him if he had flattered ſufficiently: and he ſaid he had ſpoke as he found, for the Damme was a foule Witch, and the Litlet moſt ugly monſters. Then I told him, how he ſhould have commended their beauties, and take them for his beſt of allyance. And he replyed he had rather have ſeene them all hang'd. Then (quoth I) you muſt alwayes receive ſuch reward as now you doe, but wiſedome would doe otherwiſe, a lie is ſometimes as much availeable, as a true tale: and faire words never come out of ſeaſon, and better then lye, hold it for a rule worthy imitation.

Thus my Lord, I have told you truely how hee came by his red night-cap, which I know he cannot, nor dare not deny, for all is true without any addition.

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CHAP. 23.

How *Isegrim* proffered his Glove to *Reynard* to fight with him, which *Reynard* accepted, and how *Rukenaw* advised the Fox how to carry himselfe in the fight.

THe Wolfe answered the Fox: I may well forbeare (false villaine as thou art) thy mockes and scornes, but thine iniuries I will not. You say, I was almost dead for hunger, when you helpt me in my need: but thou lyest falsly therein, for it was nothing but a Hars bone thou gavest mee, when thou hadst gnawne all the meate thereof: and therefore know in this thou iniurest my reputation, againe thou accusest mee of treason against the King, and to conspire his Maiesties death, for certaine treasure which thou saist is in Hulsterloe: also thou hast abused and slandered my wife, which will ever be an infamy to her name, if it be not revenged: these things considered, I have forborne you long, therefore now looke not to escape, wherefore seeing there is no other testimony but our owne consciences: here before you my Lord the King, and the rest of my Noble Lords friends and allyances: here I affirme and will approve to the last drop of my blood, that thou Reynard the Fox art a false Traitor and a murtherer, and this will I approve and make good upon thy body within the Lists of the field, body against body, by which meanes our strife shall have an end, and in witnesse whereof I cast thee here my Glove, which I dare thee to take up, that I may have right for mine iniurie; or else die like a Mecreant.

Reynard was something perplext when he saw this, for he knew himselfe much too weake for the Wolfe, and feared to come by the worst: but straight remembring the advantage he had, by reason the Wolfes fore-clawes were pull'd away, and that they were not yet fully cured he said, Whatsoever hee be that saith I am a Traitor or a murtherer, I say he lyeth in his throat, especially Isegrim above all others: proue false, thou bringest me to the place I desire, and to the purpose I wisht for, in signe whereof I take up the gage, and throw downe mine, to approve all thy words lies and falshoods.

This



This said, the King receiued their pledges, and admitted the battell, commanding them to put in their sureties, that the next morrow they should trie the combat: then kept forth the Beare, and the Cat, and were sureties for the Wolfe: and for the Fore were sureties Grimbard the Brock and Byrelus,

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By the Wolfes challenging the combat of the Fox, is shewed the madnesse of rage and fury, and how negligent it is in respecting it owne hazard, so it may doe mischefe to the adversary. The Foxes accepting of it shewes that when policy hath no other shifting hole,

when al ceremonies were finished, the the Ape tooke Reynard aside, and said, Nephew, I beseech you take care of your selfe in this battell, be bold and wise, your Uncle taught me once a prayer of singular vertue, for him which was to fight: and he learn'd it of that excellent Scholler and Clerke, the Abbot of Budelo, and he that saith this prayer with a good devotion fasting, shall never be overcommed in combat, and therefore my best Nephew be not afraid, for to morrow I will teade it over you, and the Wolfe shall never prevaile against you. The For gave her many thankes for her favours, and told her his quarrell was good and honest, and therefore he had no doubt of happy successe: so all that night he rested with his kinsfolkes about him, who drave away the time with pleasant discourse. But Dame Rukenaw his Aunt, still beat her braine how to worke him advantage in the combat, wherefore she caused al his haire to be shaven off, even from his head to the taile, and then she anoynted all his body quite over with oyle Olive, so that she made it so smooth and slippery, that the

Wolfe

Wolfe could catch no hold of him: besides he was round, fat and plumpe of body, which much availed to his advantage: then she advised him that night to devour nothing, that he might be more apt to pisse in the morning, but in no wise to shed any till he came into the field: then (said she) when you are in the fight, and see time fitting, pisse upon your bush taile, and strike it in the Wolfes face, and as neere as you can into his eyes, by which meanes blinding his sight, he shall be little able to offend you: and but at these especiall times keepe your taile as close as can be betweene your legges, lest hee catch hold thereon, and pull you to the ground: also take carefully to your selfe at the first, and by all meanes shun his blowes, making him to toyle and runne after, especially there where most dust is, and spying it up with your feete, make it flie in his eyes, take your advantage, and smite and bite him, where you may doe him most mischiefe, ever and anon striking him on the face with your taile full of pisse, and that will take from him both sight and understanding: besides it will so tyre and weary him, that his feete not being fully cured of their hurt by the losse of his shoes (which you caused to be pull'd off) he will not be able to pursue you: for though hee be great, yet his heart is little and weake. This (Nephew) is mine advice, and assure your selfe in these cases, Art prevaileth as much as courage: therefore regard your selfe well, that not onely your selfe, but your whole family may gaine honour and reputation from your fortune: as for the charme or prayer which your Uncle Martin taught me (by which you may be invisible, it is this which followeth, then laying her hand upon his head, she said: Blaerd, Shay, Alphenio, Rasbue, Gorsons, Alsbuffio. Now Nephew, assure your selfe you are free from all mischiefe or danger whatsoever, therefore goe to your rest, for it is neere day, and some sleepe will make the body better disposed.

The Fox gave her infinite thankes, and told her she had bound him (to her) a servant for ever: and in those holy words she had spoken, he had plac'd his confidence unremoveable, and so he laid him downe to rest under a Tree in the grasse, till i

dentful

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that then it growes desperate, and will outface any thing to the uttermost danger.

By the shee Apes counsell is shewed, the care of a true friend, which is then ever most busie when hee sees his companion in danger, and leaves no way unsought that may free him from trouble.

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was Sunne rise: at what time the Otter came unto him and awaked him, and gave him a fat young Ducke to eate, saying: Weare Cousin, I have toiled all this night to get this present for you, which I tooke from a Fowler, here take and eate it, and it shall give you vigour and courage. The Fox gave him many thankes, and said, it was fortunate hansell, and if he



ſurdived that day, he ſhould find hée would requite it: ſo the Fox ate the Duck without bread or ſawce, more then his hunger, and to it he dranke foure great draughts of water, and then he went to the place appointed where the Liſtes ſtood, with all his kindred attending on him.

When the King beheld Reynard thus ſhorne and oyled, he



ſaid:

said to him: Well Fox, I see you are carefull of your owne safety: you respect not beauty so you escape danger. The Fox answered not a word, but bowing himselfe downe humbly to the earth, both before the King and Queenes Majesties, went forth into the Field: and at the same time the Wolfe was also ready, and stood boasting, and giving out many proud and vaine-glorious speeches. The Marshals and Rulers of the Lists, were the Libard and the Losse. These brought forth a booke, on which the Wolfe swore and maintained his assertion, That the Fox was a Traitor, and a Murtherer, which he would prove on his body, or else be counted a Recreant. Then Reynard tooke the booke, and sware hee lyed as a false Traytor and a Theefe, which he would prove on his body, or be accounted a Recreant.

When these ceremonies were done, the Marshals of the Field bad them doe their devoire. And then every creature avoided the Lists, save dame Rukenaw who stood by the Fox, and bade him remember the words and instructions shee had given him, and call to minde, how when he was scarce seven yeeres old, he had then wisedome enough to passe the darkest night without Lanthorne or candle-light, or the helpe of the Moone, when any occasion required him: and that his experience was much greater, and his reputation of wisdome more frequent with his companions: and therefore to worke so as he might winne the day, which would be an eternall monument to him and his family for ever. To this the Fox answered (My best Aunt,) assure your selfe I will doe my best, and not forget a little of your counsaile. I doubt not but my friends shall reape honour, and my foes shame by my actions: to this the Ape said, Amen, and so departed.

CHAP. 24.

Of the Combat betweene the Fox and the Wolfe, the event, passages and victory.



VVHen none but the Combatants were in the Lists, the Wolfe went towards the Fox with infinite rage and fury, and thinking to take the Fox in his foreſæt, the Fox lept nimbly from him and the Wolfe purſued him, ſo that there began a tedious chaſe betweene them, on which all their friends gazed. The Wolfe taking larger ſtrides then the Fox often overtooke him, and lifting up his fæte to ſtrike him, the Fox avoided the blow, and ſmote him on the face with his tayle, which was all to be piſt, ſo that the Wolfe was ſtriken almoſt blind, the piſſe ſmarted ſo extremely. And he was forced to reſt whilſt he glaired his eyes, which advantage when Reynard ſaw, he ſcratted up the duſt with his fæte, and threw it in the eyes of the Wolfe. This grieved him worſe then the former, ſo that he durſt follow him no longer, for the duſt and ſand ſticking in his eyes ſmarted ſo ſore,

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that of force he must rub and wash it away. Which Reynard seeing, with all the fury he could he ran upon him, and with his teeth gave him three sore wounds on his head, and scoffing said: Have I hit you, Mr. Wolfe? I will yet hit you better, you have kild many a Lamb, & many an innocent Beast, and would impose the fault upon me, but you shall find the price of your knavery: I am markt to punish thy sinnes, and I will give thee thy absolution bravely. It is good thou use patience, for Hell is thy Purgatory, & thy life is at my mercy. Yet notwithstanding, if thou wilt kneele downe and aske me forgivenesse, and confesse thy selfe vanquished (though thou best the worst thing living) yet I will spare thy life, for my pitty makes mee loath to kill thee. These words made Isegrim both mad and desperate, so that hee knew not how to expresse his fury, his wounds bled, his eyes smarted, and his whole body was oppressed. So that in the height of his fury he lift up his foot, and strucke the Fox so great a blow, that he fell him to the ground. But Reynard being nimble, quickly rose up againe and encountred the Wolfe, that betweene them begun a dreadfull and doubtfull combat. The Wolf was exceeding furious, and ten times he leaped to catch Reynard fast, but his skin was so slippery and oylie, he could not hold him. Nay, so wondrous nimble was hee in fight, that when the Wolfe thought to have him surest, he would shift himselfe betweene his legs and under his belly, and every time gave the Wolfe a bite with his teeth, or a swapon the face with his taile, that the poore Wolfe found nothing but despaire in the conflict, albeit his strenght, was much the greater.

Thus many woundes and bitings passing on either side, the one expressing cunning, and the other strenght, the one fury, the other temperance. In the end the Wolfe being inraged, that the battell had continued so long, (for had his feete beene sound, it had beene much shorter) he said to himself, I will make an end of this combat, for I knowe my very waight is able to crush him to peeces, and I lose much of my reputation, to suffer him thus long to contend against me. And this said, hee strucke the Fox againe so sore a blow on the head with

with his foote, that he fell downe to the ground, and ere hee could recover himselfe, and arise, he caught him in his fast and threw him under him, lying upon him in such wise, as if hee would have prest him to death.



Now began the Fox to be grievously afraid, and all his friends also, and all Isegrims friends began to shout for joy:

The Morall.

By the Wolfes furious assailing the Fox, and the Foxes watching and pursuing of advantage is shewed, the folly of rage and passion, and the discretion of temperance and wisedome, the first never bringing any thing but losse, the other commonly accompanied with honour and safety; by the pist taile is expresst the sharp afflictions with which wisedome ever punishes rashnes, and by the losse of the Wolves eye, is shewed, that madnesse and rage is evermore but blindnesse. The Wolfes catching the Fox, and holding him in his power shewes that Fortune sometimes fa-

but the Fox defended himselfe (as well as he could) with his clawes, lying along, and the Wolfe could not hurt him with his clawes, his féete were so sore, onely with his teeth he snatched at him to bite him, which when the Fox saw, hee smote the Wolfe on the head with his fore-clawes, so that he tore the skinne betweene his browes, and his eares, and one of his eyes hung out of his head, which put the Wolfe to infinite torment, and he howled out extremely: then Isegrim wiping his face, the Fox tooke advantage thereof, and with his strugling got upon his féet.

At which the Wolfe was angry, and striking after him, caught the Fox in his armes, and held him fast: never was Reynard in so great a straite as then, for at that time great was their contention, but anger now made the Wolfe forget his smart, and griping the Fox altogether under him, as Reynard was defending himselfe, his hand light into Isegrims mouth, so that he was in danger to lose it. Then said the Wolfe to the Fox, Now either yéeld thy selfe as vanquished, or else certainely I will kill thée, neither thy dust, thy pisse, thy mockes, nor any subtill invention shall now save thée, thou art now left utterly desperate, and my wounds must have their satisfaction. When the Fox heard this, he thought it was a hard election, for both brought his ruine: and suddenly concluding, he said, Deare Uncle, since fortune commands me, I yéeld to be your servant, and at your commandements will travell for you to the holy Land, or any other Pilgrimage, or do any service which shall be beneficiall to your soule or the soule of your fore-fathers: I will doe for the King or for our holy father the Pope, I will hold of you my lands and revenues, and as I, so shall all the rest of my kindred: so that you shall be a Lord of many Lords, and none shall dare to move against you: besides, whatsoever I get of Pullaine, Géese, Partridges, or Plover, flesh, or fish, you, your wife and children shall have the first choise, ere any come in my belly. I will ever stand by your side, and whersoever you goe, no danger shall come néere you: you are strong, and I am subtill, we two joyned together, what force can prevaile against us?

Againe,

Againe, wée are so nére in blood, that nature forbids there should be any enmity betweéne us: I would not have fought against you, had I béene sure of victory, but that you first appealed me, and then you know of necessity I must doe my uttermost: I have also in this battell béene courteous to you, and not shewed my worst violence, as I would on a stranger, for I know it is the duty of a Nephew to spare his Uncle: and this you might well perceive by my running from you, I tell you, it was an action much contrary to my nature, for I might often have hurt you when I refused, nor are you worse for me, by any thing more then the blemish of your eye, for which I am sorry, and wish it had not hapned: yet thereby know you shall reape rather benefit then losse thereby, for when other Beasts in their sléepe shut two windowes, you shall shut but one. As for my wife, children and lineage, they shall fall downe at your feet before you in any presence: therefore I humbly desire you, that you will suffer poore Reynard to live. I know you will kill me, but what will that availe you, when you shall never live in safety for feare of revenge, ment of my kindred? therefore temperance in any mans wrath is excellent, whereas rashnesse is ever the mother of repentance: but Uncle I know you to be valiant, wise and discréete, and you rather séeke honour, peace, and good fame, then blood and revenge.

Isegrim the Wolfe said, Infinite dissembler, how faine wouldst thou be freed of my servitude? too well I understand thée, & know that if thou wert safe on thy féete, thou wouldst forsweare this submission: but know all the wealth in the world shall not buy out thy ransome, for thée and thy friends I estéeme them not, nor beléeve any thing thou hast uttered: too well I know thée, and am no bird for thy Lime-bush, chaffe cannot deceive me: O how wouldest thou triumph if I should beléeve thée, and say, I wanted wit to understand thée, but thou shalt know I can looke both on this side and beyond thée, thy many deceits used upon me, have now armed mée against thée. Thou saist thou hast spared me in the battell: but looke upon me, and my wounds will shew how falsly thou lyest,

thou

vours fooles, but never gives them grace to enjoy the benefit.

The Foxes flattering of the Wolfe, shewes, that whensoever wisedome is oppressed, it hath yet still one temperate meanes or other, to gaine its owne liberty, and that faire words do ever either vanquish or astonish. Lastly by the weake Foxes conquering the strong Wolfe, is shewed, that in all these accidents of chance, neither force, rage nor violence doe prevaile so much as wisedome, discretion, and temperate and wary carriage.

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thou never gavest mée a time to breath in, nor will I now give thée a minute to repent in, and the rather when I thinke of the dishonour thou didst to my bed, and how inhumanely thou didst ravish my deare wife Dame Arswinde.

Now whilst Isegrim was thus talking, the Fox bethought himselfe how he might best get free, and thrusting his other hand downe betweene his legges, he caught the Wolfe fast by the stones, and he wrung him so extremely hard thereby, that he made him shrieke & howle out with the anguish: then the Fox drew his other hand out of his mouth, for the Wolfe was in such wondrous torment, that he had much adoe to containe himselfe from swounding: for this torment excéeded above the paine of his eye, and in the end he fell over and over in a swound: then presently Reynard lept upon him, and drew him about the Lists and dragd him by the legges, and stacke, wounded, and bit him in many places, so that all the whole field might take note thereof.

At this all Isegrims friends were full of sorrow, and with great weeping and lamentation, went to the King, and prayed him to be pleased to appease the combat, and take it into his owne hands: which suite the King granted, and then the Lybard and the Leffon (being Marshals) entred the Lists, and told the Fox, and the Wolfe, that the King would speake with them, and that the battell should there end, for he would take it into his owne hands, and determine thereof: as for themselves they had done sufficiently, neither would the King lose either of them: and to the Fox they said, the whole field gave him the victory.

The Fox said, I humbly thanke them, and what pleaseth my Lord the King to command I am ready to obey, for mine ambition is no further then to be victor, therefore I beseech you let my friends come to attend mée, that I may proceed by their advice. They answered it was reason: so presently came forth dame Slopecard, and Grimbard her husband, dame Rukenaw with her two sisters, Bicelus and Fulcumpe, her two sonnes, and Malice her daughter, the field Mouse, the Weasell, and above an hundred which would not have come

if

if the Fox had loſt the conqueſt: for to him that hath honour, will ever flocke attendants, but to him that is in loſſe will no thing but contempt follow. Alſo the Fox came to the Bever, the Otter, and both their wives, Pautcerrote, and Ordegale, and the Oſtrole, the Martin, and the Fitchews, the Firrit, the Squirrell, and a world more then I can name, and all becauſe he was the victor: nay divers which before had complained of him, were now of his neareſt kindred, and ready to doe him all ſervice. This is the faſhion of the world, he that is rich and in favour, can never be poore or hungry for friendſhip, every one will ſeeme to love him, every one will imitate his faſhions.



Then was a ſolemne feaſt held, Trumpets were ſounded, Cornets winded, Shawmes, and all inſtruments warbled, and every one cryed, Praiſed be Heaven for this glorious conqueſt. Reynard thanked them all kindly, and received them with great joy and gladneſſe: then asked their opinions whether he ſhould yeeld the victory to the King or no: and Dame

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Slopard ſaid, yes by all meanes Couſin, for it ſtands with your honour, nor may you denye it. And (ſo the Marſhals going before) they went all to the King, guarding the Fox on every ſide, all the Trumpets, Pipes and Minſtrelſie ſounding before him.



When

When Reynard came before the King he fell on his knées, and the King bade him ſtand up, and ſaid to him: Reynard you may well reioyce, for you have wonne much honour this day, therefore he reI diſcharge you, and ſet you frée, to goe whither your owne will leads you, for all conteſtations I take upon my ſelfe, and will have it diſcuſt by the wiſeſt of the Kingdome, as ſoone as Iſegrims wounds ſhall be cured, at what time I will ſend for you, and ſo proceed to iudgement.

My worthy and dread Lord (ſaid the Fox) I am well appaid with any thing that ſhall pleaſe you: yet when I came firſt to your Highneſſe Court, there were many malicious perſons which ſought my life (whom I never injured) but they thought to overcome me, by ioyning with my enemies againſt me, and thinking the Wolfe had greater favour then I with your Majeſty: this was the ground of their indignation, wherein they ſhewed their ſimplicity, not to alter the end which followed.

Theſe men (my Lord) are like a great kennell of Hounds, which once I ſaw ſtanding at a Lords houſe on a dunghill, where they waited for ſuch as ſhould bring them meate, anon they ſaw a Hound come out of the kitchen, which had thence brought a goodly rib of Béefe: but the Cooke purſuing him, threw hote ſcalding water after him, and ſcalded all his hinder parts: but notwithſtanding away he went with his booty: but when his fellowes perceived him, they called to him, and ſaid: O how much art thou bound to the good Cooke which hath given thée that goodly bone, ſo well furniſht with fleſh: but the Dogge replyed, You ſpeake according to your knowledge, and praiſe me in ſuch ſort, as you ſéeme before with the bone in my mouth: but if you pleaſe to looke upon me behind on my buttockes, you ſhall finde how dearely I payed for it, and they beholding how he was ſcalded, and all the haire and skinne flayed from his hinder loynes: they began to be agaſt and amazed at his torment, neither would they any more of his fellowſhip, but fled and ranne away from him. In the ſame ſort, my Lord theſe falſe and unworthy Beaſts, when they are made Lords, poſſeſſe

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their desires, and are mighty and renowned: then doe they extort, pill and pole the poore and needy and eate them up like so many hunger-starved Hounds, for they are the dogges with bones in their mouthes, no man dare to meddle with them, but praise all their actions: no man dare offend them, nay, many assist and helpe them in their unlawfull actions, onely that they may licke their fingers, and be partakers of their extortions.

O (my deare Lord) how can those men goe safely, which goe thus blindfold? or how can they expect but a shamefull fall, whose steps are so incertaine? neither can any man pitty them when their workes are discloſed, but continuall curses and upbraidings follow them to the grave with destruction; many of these have lost their haire (which is their friends) as the Hound did, and have none left to cover their mischiefes, but all forsake them as the Hounds did the dogge which was scalded.

My gracious Lord, I beseech you remember this morall example: and it will nothing impaire the greatnesse of your vertue, for doubtlesse many of these evill extorting creatures are under your subjection, both in Townes, Cities, and great Lords houses, who outface the poore, and sell away their freedomes and priviledges, and threaten things upon them, which they never knew, thought or imagined, and all to make up the Common-wealths of their owne particular profits: but the ends of such are vilde, and heaven hath for them a judgement: but of these errors I hope none shall justly accuse me, nor any of my kindred, but we shall acquite us nobly from the same, I feare creatures accusations, for I will ever be the For though all my foes sweare to the contrary. My Lord, you I adore above all mortall creatures living, nor can any wisedoms divert me from you, but I will abide by you to the last gaspe, and though malice have tolde your Highnesse the contrary, yet I have ever disproved them, and so will doe to the last moment.

CHAP.

CHAP. 25.

How the King forgave the Fox all things, and made him the greateſt in his Land, and of his noble returne home with all his kindred.

THe King ſaid Reynard, you are one that owe mée homage and fealty, and I hope I ſhall ever enioy it: And for



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your service, here I make you one of the Lords of my privy Councell. Take heede you doe not any thing unworthily, for here I place you in all your power and authority as formerly you were, hoping you will administer Justice equally and truely. For as long as you imploy your wit unto vertuous actions, so long the Court cannot misse you: for you are a Starre, whose lustre exceedes all other, especially in finding out mischiefes, and preventing them. Therefore remember the Morall you your selfe told me, and be a lover of truth and equitie. From henceforth I will be govern'd by your wisedome, and there shall not breathe that creature in any Kingdome which shall doe you injurie, but I will highly revenge it. This you shall proclaime thorough all the Nation, & be the chiefest Governour in the same, for the Office of high Bailiffe here I freely bestow upon you, and I know you may reape great honour thereby.

All Reynards friends and kindred humbly thanked the King, but he told them it was much short of that he intended to doe for their sakes: and advised them all to admonish him, to be carefull of his faith and loyalty, This said Dame Rukenaw, Beleeve it my Lord, we will not faile in that point, neither feare you the contrary: for should he prove otherwise, he would renounce him. Then the Fox also thanked the King with faire and curteous words saying: (My gracious Lord) I am not worthy of these high honours you doe me: yet will ever study with my service how to deserve them: nor shall my best counsell at any time be wanting. And this said, he tooke his humble leave of the King, and so departed with the rest of his friends and kindred.

Now whilst these passages hapned, Bruine the Beare, Tibert the Cat, and Arsewind and her children, with the rest of their Linage, drew the Wolfe out of the field, and laid him upon soft litter and hay, and covered him all over very warme, and dressed his wounds, which were to the number of five and twenty, by the helpe of many skillfull Leeches and Surgions. His sicknesse and weaknesse was so great, that his feeling was lost: but they rubbed and chafed him on the tem-

ples



The Morall.

By these honours done to the Fox by the Lion, is shewed that seldom one good fortune commeth without another, and he that hath once atchieved fame and renowme, to him wil the world fly, and dignity on dignity shall bee heaped upon him, as on the contrary part, he that is once fallen either in state or reputation, it is a thing of much difficulty to see him advanced without miracle, for worldly men are said to be like Dogges, which when one of their owne kind is downe, all the rest will fall

ples and under the eyes, till he leapt out of his swound, and howled so lowde that all were amazed which heard him: but the Physicians gave him Cordials to drinke, and a dormiture or portion to make him sleepe. And then comforted his wife telling her there was no danger or perill of his life. So the Court brake up, and every Beast returned to his owne home,

Amongst

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Amongſt the reſt Reynard the Fox tooke his leave of the King and Queene, ſhe deſired him not to be long abſent from them. To whom he anſwered, that he would be ever ready at their ſervice, as was his bounden duty, and not himſelfe alone, but all his friends and kindred alſo. And ſo begging licence of his Maieſty in all ſolemne manner and with faire ſpæch, he departed from the Court.

upon him and worry him. But wiſe men or good-men (for both are ſcarce) are ſaid to be like Hogs, which when one of their kind is downe all the reſt will preſently aſſiſt and help him.

For any thing elſe contained in this Chapter, it is either Moralized by the ſpeeches of the Fox or elſe by the Author.



Was never creature that ever flattered braver or to better purpose, for he that could doe the like, might be a Master of the eight liberall Science. And no Lord, whether Spirituall or Temporall but would have an eare open for his language. Nor dyed he without issue, for he hath Children almost in all places.

And indeed he that hath no allyance to him in the Art of dissimulation, shall hardly prosper as the world goeth: Though hee want his heyre, yet if he have his heart, it is enough to make him accepted.

Plaine-dealing is now an exile, and Covetousnesse and fraud have taken possession of his Tenements: not the Popes Palace, the Court of Emperours, Kings and Princes cannot bee excused of this error.

Money is now growne the onely Saboath of the times, the very Church Idoll, and the Countrey worship: it can purchase all things, defend all things, and confound all things: And mad men travaile over the world, to gaine this folly, this fashion: Who is not a true Fox, is but a beast of base estimation.

This is the worlds welcome, and what will become of the use, the wise man can hardly judge or imagine: Onely that these hainous sinnes of falsehood, Theft, Murther and Ambition, can never walke but hand in hand with Judgement: From which I heartily pray that the hand of the Highest will defend us, and make us walke in those pathes which shall be suitable to vertue and piety. With which I conclude, since these misdeeds are no fit Theame for mee to treate of, since at the last day every one is sure to give an account for his owne burthen.

WIth Reynard all his friends and Bonsolks to the number of forty, tooke their leave also of the King, and went away with the Fox, who was so little glad creature that he had sped so well and stood so farre in the Kings favour: for now he had power enough to advance whom hee pleased, and pull downe any that envyed his fortune.

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After ſome travell the Fox and all his friends came to the Borrough or Caſtle of Malepardus, where every one (in noble and courteous manner) toke leave of other, and Reynard did



to every one of them great reverence, and thanked them for the love and honour he had received from them, proteſting evermore to remaine their faithfull ſervant, and to ſecond them in

all

all things wherein his life or goods might be availeable unto them: and so stroke hands and departed.

The Fox went in to Dame Ermelin his Wife, who welcomed him with great tenderness: And to her and her Children, he related at large all the wonders which had befallen him at the Court, and miss no title or circumstance therein. Then grew they proud that his Fortune was so excellent: and the Fox spent his dayes from thencefoorth (with his Wife and Children) in great joy and content.

Now whosoever shall relate unto you (of the Fox) more or lesse then you have heard; I would not wish you to build any faith upon his reports. Onely this which you have already heard or read, you may beléeve at your best pleasure: Or if any refuse, he shall not notwithstanding be accounted an Heretick, since he that onely saw it, may best give credit unto it, and yet many in this world beléeve the things they have not seene.

Besides, there are many Playes both Comick and Morall, which figure out things that never were, onely to make use & benefit of the example: That men may thereby the better shun Vice, and pursue Vertues. In like manner, this Book, though it containe but matter of jest and sport, yet if hée looke seriously thereinto, he may haply finde much Morall matter and wisdome, worthy his consideration. Goodnes nor any Good-man shall be finde in it disreputed, for all things are generally spoke, and every man may take his own part as his Conscience shal instruct him: If any finde himselfe too much oppressed, let him shake it off with amendment: If any be cleare, let him hold on his path, and avoyd stumbling: And if any take distaste or offence, let him not blame me, but the Fox, for it is only his language. But if all things sute to my wisht imaginations, I shall then be encouraged to salute the world with a Second part, clad in some neater English, déeper matter, and if not more, yet every whit as pleasant Morals.

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